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BB FACES THE
MEN OF THE
MASK!

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project them 10 ft. tall

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the BLUE BEETLE

EVERYONE'S SEEKING
CONCEALMENT. A MASK
MAY HIDE A FACE. A FACE
MAY MASK ONE'S TRUE
FEELINGS... BUT THE BLUE
BEETLE MUST PENETRATE
THEM ALL AS HE FACES...

Plot and Art: STEVE DITKO
Script: D. C. GLANZMAN
Lettering: HERB FIELD

the Men of the Mask!



IN THE LAB OF TED KORDIN...

I'VE GOT THE MAPS AND BOOKS YOU WANTED, TED. BUT MUST YOU GO? HOW CAN YOU BE SURE THAT DAN WON'T CONTACT YOU AGAIN?

HE'S HAD PLENTY OF TIME TO DO SO IF HE WANTED TO! DAN WAS PREPARING FOR AN EXPEDITION PRIOR TO OUR GOING TO PAGO ISLAND... I BELIEVE HE'S ON THAT EXPEDITION RIGHT NOW!



INSTEAD OF SITTING AROUND WORRYING ABOUT IT, I'M GOING TO TRY TO FIND DAN SO WE CAN SETTLE THE PROBLEM OF WHO SHOULD BE THE BLUE BEETLE!

DAN IS ALIVE, BUT SINCE HE WAS HURT, HE COULD JUST BE RESTING!



EVEN SO, HE COULD HAVE CONTACTED ME AGAIN. A MAN LIKE DAN DOESN'T JUST IGNORE SOMETHING AS VITAL AS THE FATE OF TWO MEN! I'VE GOT TO KNOW WHY HE IS!



BUT WE DON'T KNOW HOW BADLY HE WAS HURT! HE COULD HAVE HAD A RELAPSE...

WHY KEEP IT A SECRET! DAN'S THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN CLEAR UP THIS MESS AND THE SOONER IT'S DONE THE BETTER... FOR ALL CONCERNED!



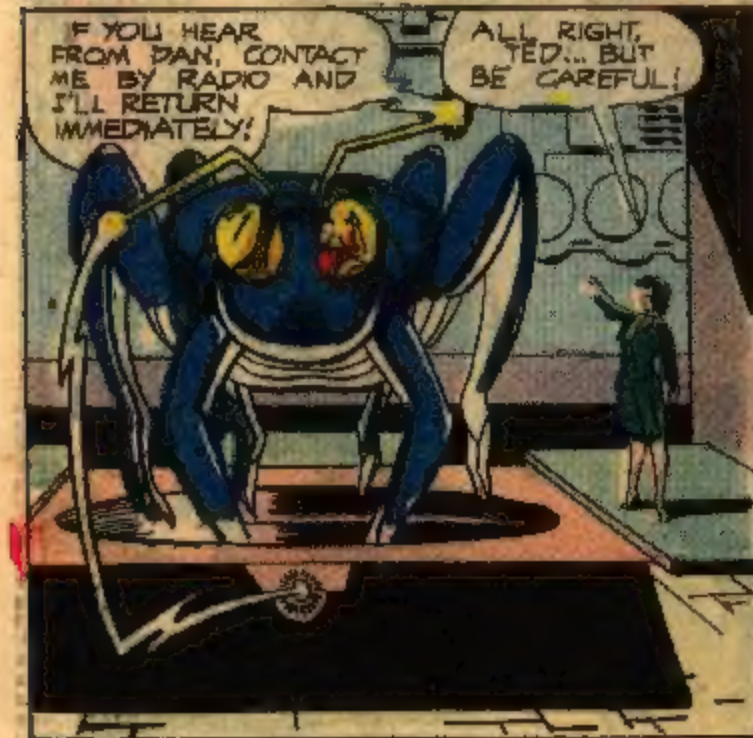
I KNOW I'M LEAVING YOU IN A TOUGH SPOT, TRACEY TAKING CARE OF THE LAB... AND IT FISCHER

DON'T WORRY, TED, I CAN HANDLE IT! I WANT TO HELP!



IF YOU HEAR FROM DAN, CONTACT ME BY RADIO AND I'LL RETURN IMMEDIATELY!

ALL RIGHT, TED... BUT BE CAREFUL!



THAT CLOSES THE RIVER WALL DOOR. I'M ON MY WAY!





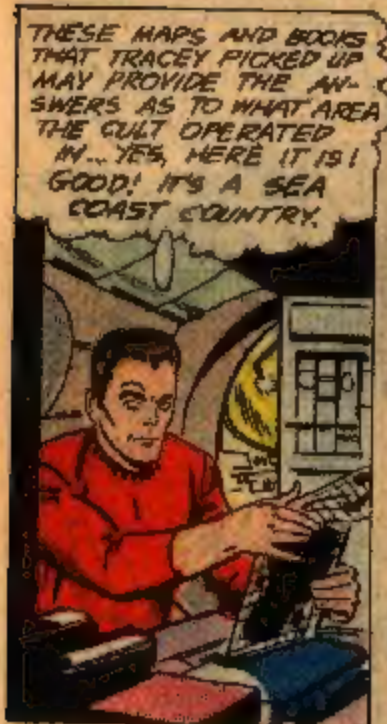
I'LL PROGRAM
OUR COURSE AND
THE AUTOMATIC
PILOT WILL
TAKE OVER
THE
CONTROLS!



I HAVE A LOT OF
WORK TO DO BEFORE
I REACH MY
DESTINATION!



DAN TOLD ME THE PURPOSE OF HIS
EXPEDITION WAS TO MAKE A STUDY
OF AN ANCIENT CULT... THE MEN OF
THE MASKS! WITH THAT TO GO ON,
I HAVE TO DETERMINE EXACTLY
WHERE DAN IS!



THESE MAPS AND BOOKS
THAT TRACEY PICKED UP
MAY PROVIDE THE AN-
SWERS AS TO WHAT AREA
THE CULT OPERATED
IN... YES, HERE IT IS!
GOOD! IT'S A SEA
COAST COUNTRY.

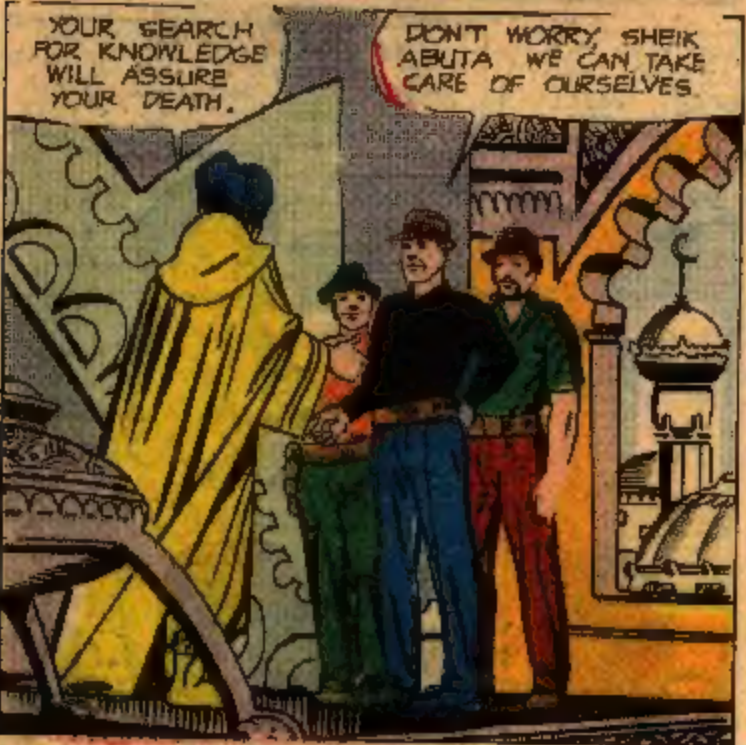


BY THE TIME I
ARRIVE... I SHOULD
KNOW EXACTLY
WHERE TO
FIND DAN!



MEANWHILE, AT THE SMALL
ASIAN COUNTRY...

DAN GARRET, MY
FRIEND, I BEG OF
YOU-- DO NOT
VENTURE TO THE
MOUNTAIN OF MIDER.
IT WILL MEAN
YOUR DEATH!
THE MEN OF
THE MASK
STILL RULE
THERE!



YOUR SEARCH
FOR KNOWLEDGE
WILL ASSURE
YOUR DEATH.

DON'T WORRY, SHEIK
ABUTA. WE CAN TAKE
CARE OF OURSELVES.



NONE WHO GO THERE ARE
EVER SEEN OR HEARD
FROM AGAIN! THEY ARE
MET BY THE RED MASKS
OF VIOLENCE OR THE
WHITE MASK OF DEATH!
MIDER SPARES NO ONE!

WE'RE AWARE OF
THE RISKS AND
WE'VE HANDLED
BANDITS BEFORE!
WE'RE PREPARED
FOR ANYTHING.

I CAN OFFER NO AID! MY PEOPLE FEAR THAT PLACE! BUT GO WITH MY BLESSINGS, TRUE FRIEND!

THANKS, SHEIK ABUTA. WE'LL SEE YOU ON OUR RETURN!

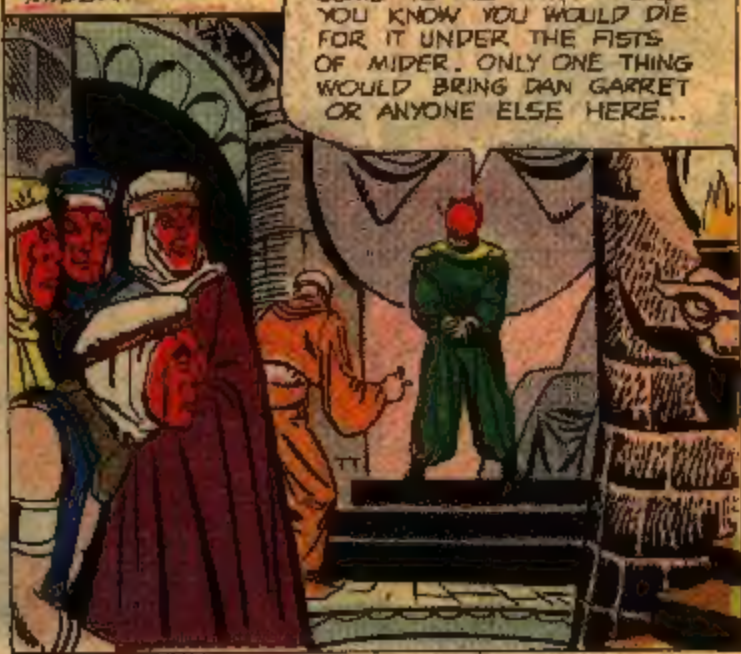


THE LOST TREASURE OF MIDER! WE'LL LET HIM COME AND FIND THE TREASURE... THEN KILL! I HAVE SPOKEN!



LATER, AT THE MOUNTAIN OF MIDER.

NO NEED FOR OATHS, SPY-- YOU WOULD NOT DARE TO COME TO ME WITH A LIE! YOU KNOW YOU WOULD DIE FOR IT UNDER THE FISTS OF MIDER. ONLY ONE THING WOULD BRING DAN GARRET OR ANYONE ELSE HERE...



MEANWHILE, BACK IN HUB CITY.

TRACEY, EITHER PUT KORD ON OR I'LL SEND A SQUAD CAR AND BRING HIM HERE!



HOLD ON, LT. FISHER, HE'S COMING! WHERE DID I PUT THAT GADGET TED GAVE ME...? HERE IT IS!



TED SAID THIS GIZMO WOULD ALTER MY VOCAL PATTERNS SO I'D SOUND LIKE HIM! HOPE IT WORKS!



HELLO, LT.! NO, I HAVEN'T HEARD FROM DAN!



KORD THIS APPEARANCE OF GARRET SMELLS! YOU BETTER NOT BE HOLDING OUT ON ME! OKAY!



WHEEE... IT WORKED. I DON'T KNOW WHETHER TO JUMP FOR JOY OR FAINT.



CONTINUED AFTER THE NEXT PAGE

A black and white photograph of Pete King, a young man with dark hair, wearing a dark jacket over a light-colored shirt. He is playing a dark-colored electric guitar, looking down at it with a focused expression. The background is a plain, light color. The text "PETE KING" is printed in a bold, sans-serif font at the bottom left of the image.

COMPLETE CHET ATKINS COURSE

\$298 postpaid

RUSH COUPON TODAY!

Gentlemen,

Enclosed is \$2.98. Kindly rush The CHET ATKINS
GUITAR COURSE to me. If not completely satisfied, I
may return the course to you for a full refund.

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Address: _____

City _____ State _____

And you don't have to read a note of music! In this
quickest-to-learn-system, Chet takes you by the hand
and leads you every step of the way BOTH BY NOTE
AND BY SIMPLE DIAGRAMS!

Included in this fabulous course are never-before-released, complete Chet Atkins arrangements — worth double the price of the course alone. Also, five handsome, king-size pictures of Chet, suitable for framing. What a bargain!

So fill out the coupon and rush it back to us NOW! The complete price is a low, low \$2.98, postage and handling FREE! If you're not thrilled and delighted, your money will be cheerfully refunded.

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12 or older

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Name

Age Date Born Year

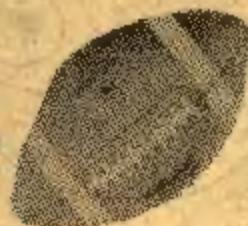
In care of _____

Street or R. O.

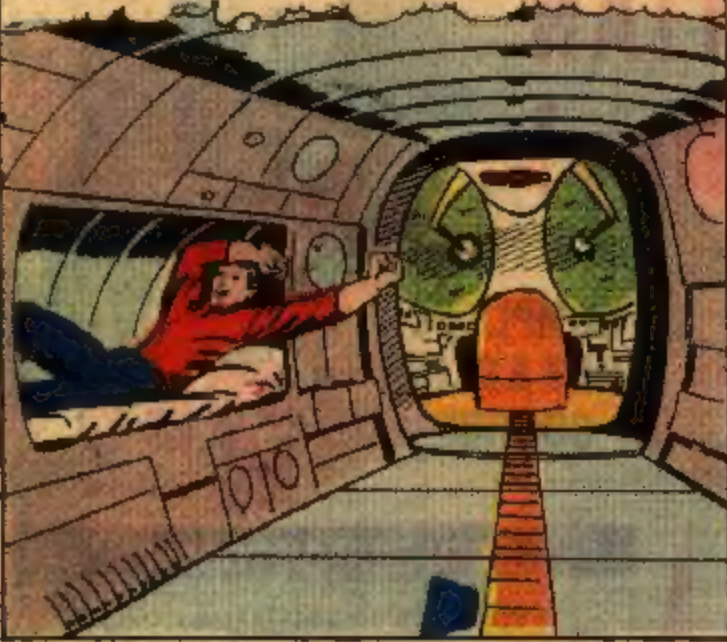
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State _____ Zip _____

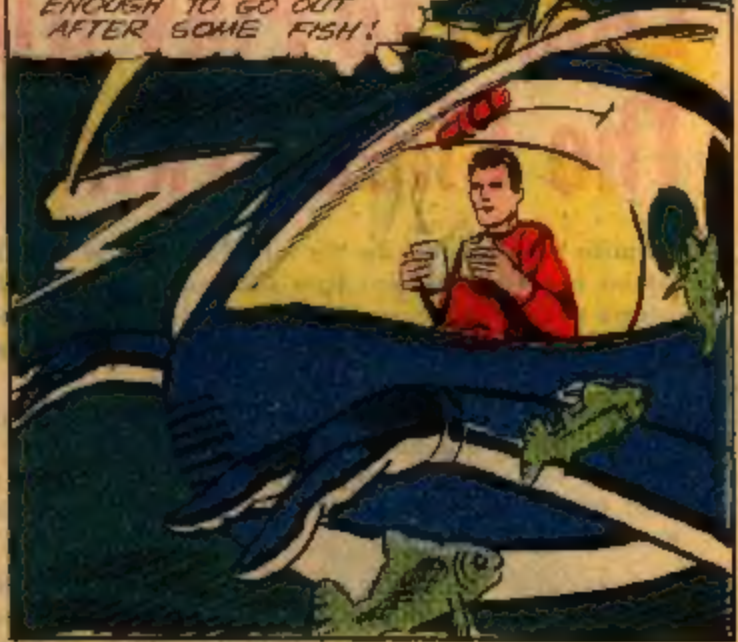
Please Print Your Last Name Plainly Below



AHHH! THAT WAS A NICE NAP! NO ALERTS FROM THE AUTOMATIC CONTROLS SO EVERYTHING MUST BE RUNNING SMOOTHLY.



I'M GLAD TRACEY THOUGHT OF PACKING ME SOMETHING TO EAT. I WAS HUNGRY ENOUGH TO GO OUT AFTER SOME FISH!



THERE'S BEEN NO SIGNAL FROM TRACEY SO DAN HASN'T CONTACTED HER. TIME TO GET DRESSED—I'LL BE ARRIVING SOON!



IT'S ABOUT AN HOUR BEFORE DAWN! TIME TO GET MY BEARINGS, STUDY THE TERRAIN AND GET MYSELF INTO POSITION BEFORE DAYLIGHT!



I'LL HAVE TO SUBMERGE THE BUS. I DON'T WANT ANYONE BUT DAN TO KNOW I'M HERE.



TIME TO GO! THE CAVE AREA WHERE DAN SHOULD BE ISN'T TOO FAR FROM HERE!



ACCORDING TO THE BOOKS,
THIS AREA WAS RULED BY
A CULT OF FANATIC KILLERS,
THE MEN OF THE MASK!
EXAGGERATED, NO DOUBT
BY THE AUTHOR'S
IMAGINATION!



WHAT MANNER
OF MAN
IS HE?

WHOEVER
HE IS, HE
MUST NOT
LEAVE HERE
ALIVE!
PREPARE!



HEY! I'M NOT BEING
ATTACKED BY THE
AUTHOR'S IMAGINATION!
THESE GUYS ARE
FOR REAL!

ATTACK
FOR
MIDER!



I CAN'T AFFORD TO
BE STOPPED NOW...
OOHHHH!

ANOTHER
VICTIM TO
INCREASE THE
JOY OF MIDER!

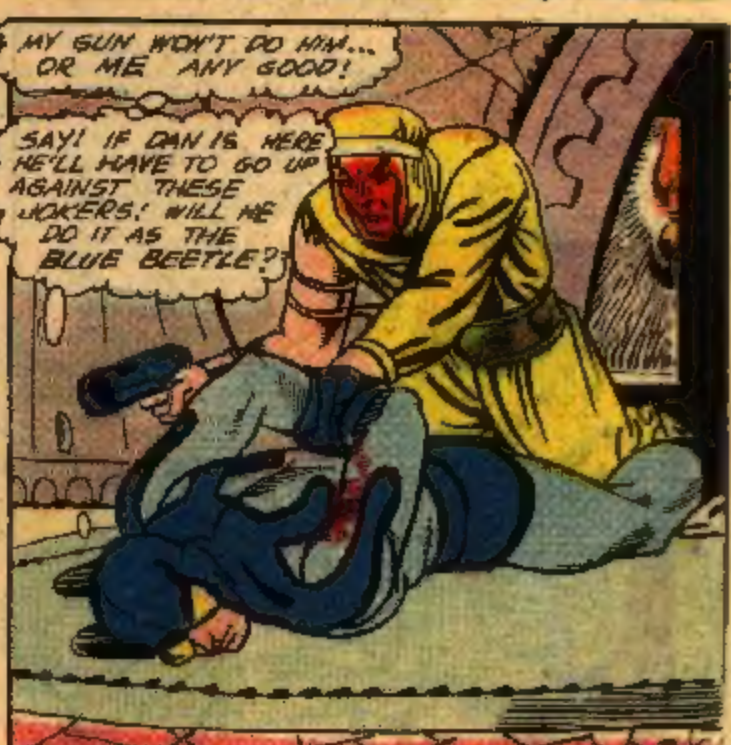


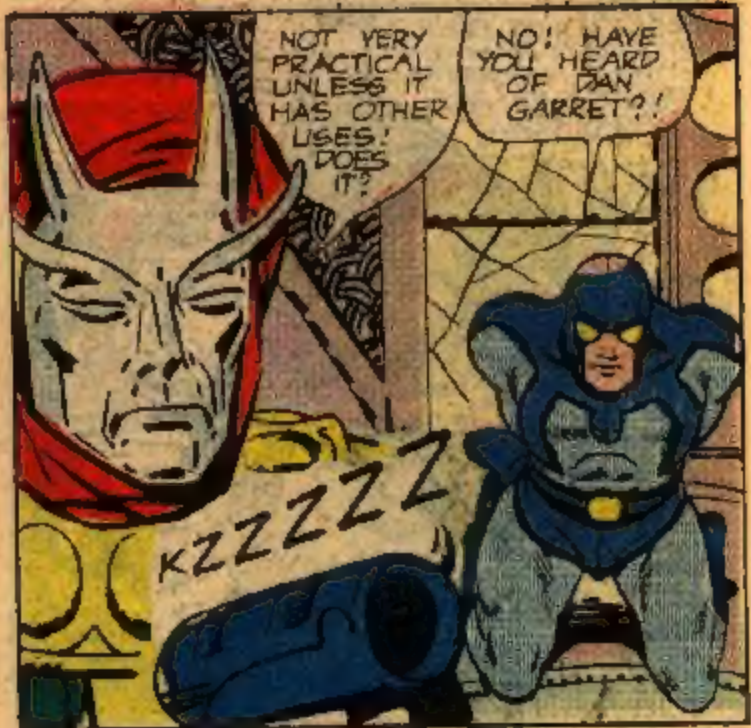
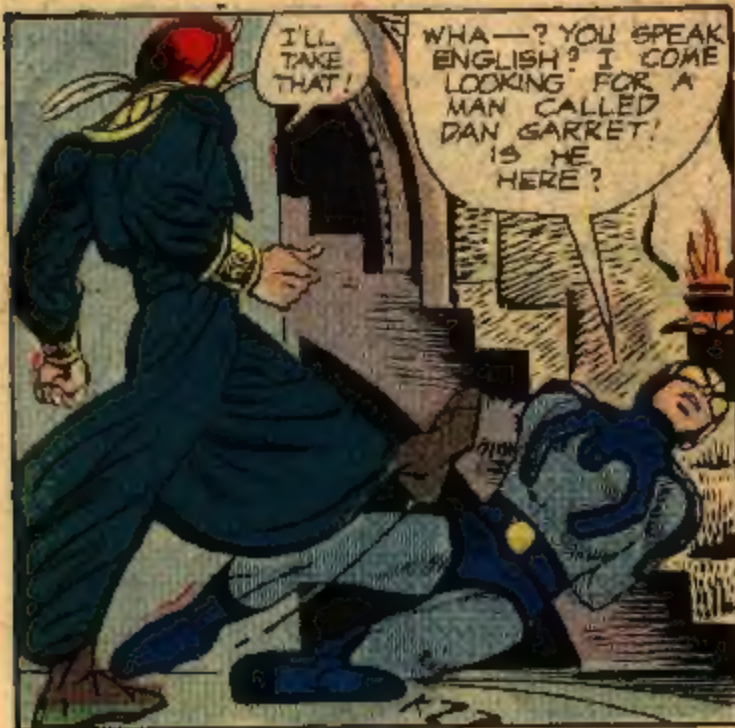
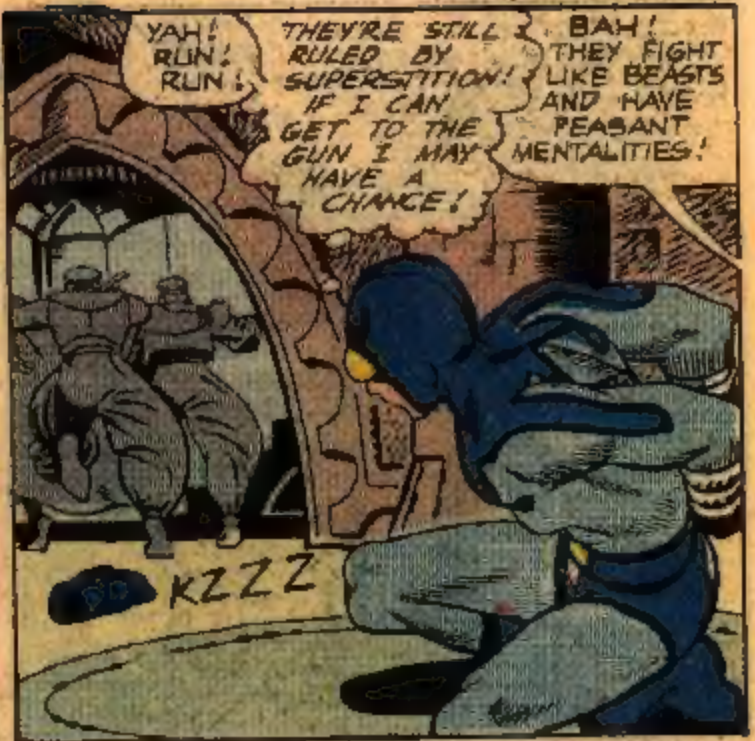
UNH! THIS IS GOING TO BE A TOUGH
SPOT TO GET OUT OF EVEN IF THE
STORIES ABOUT THE MEN OF THE
MASK ARE ONLY HALF TRUE!

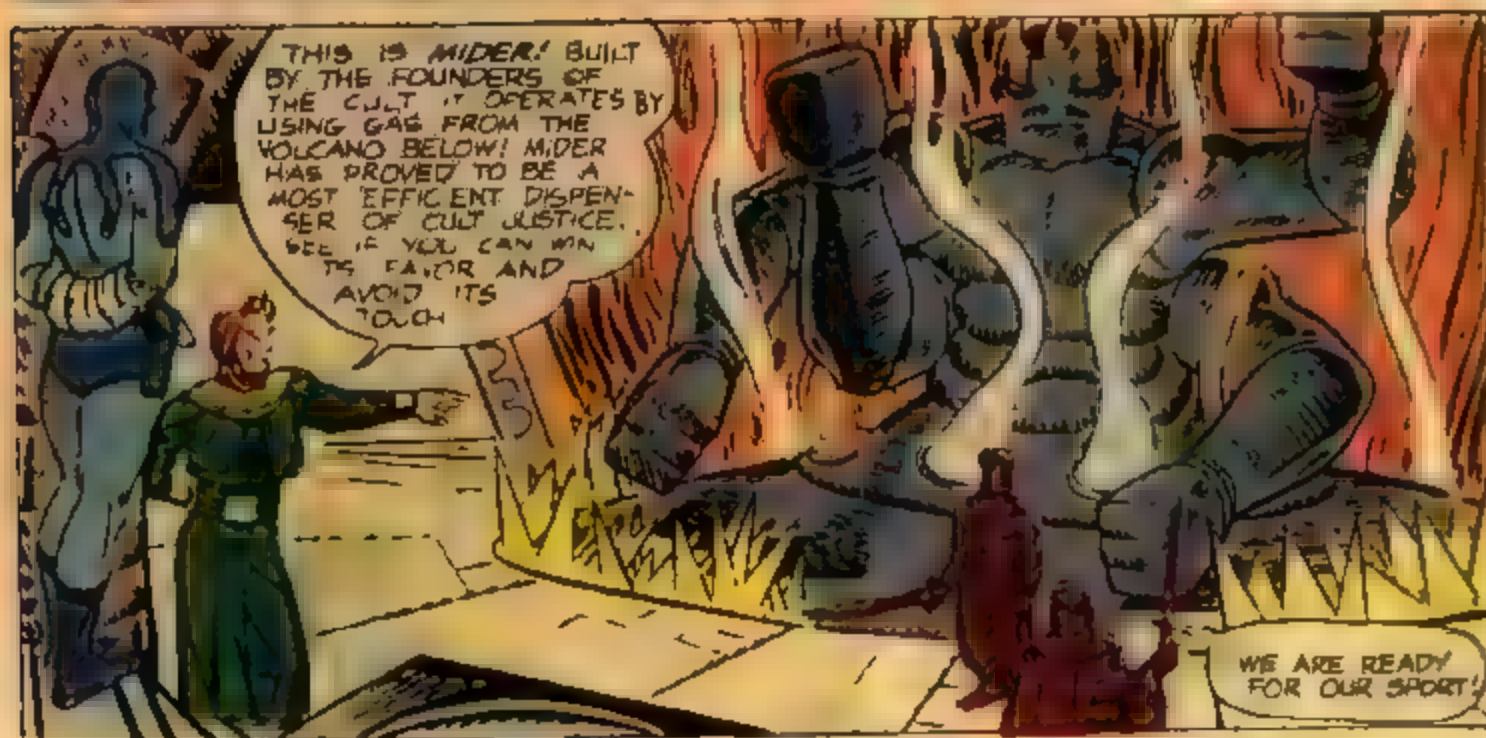
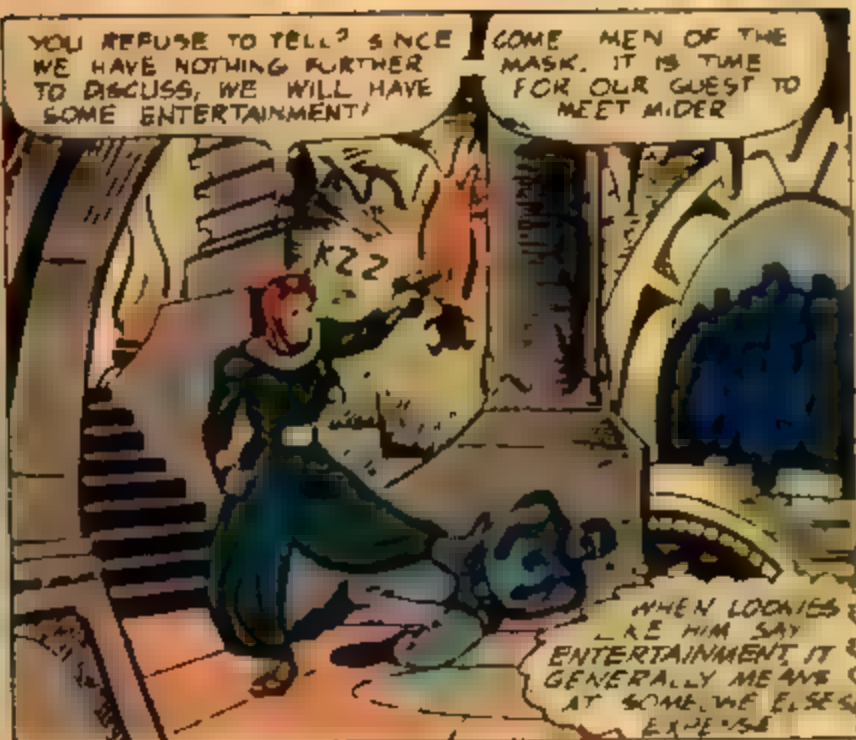


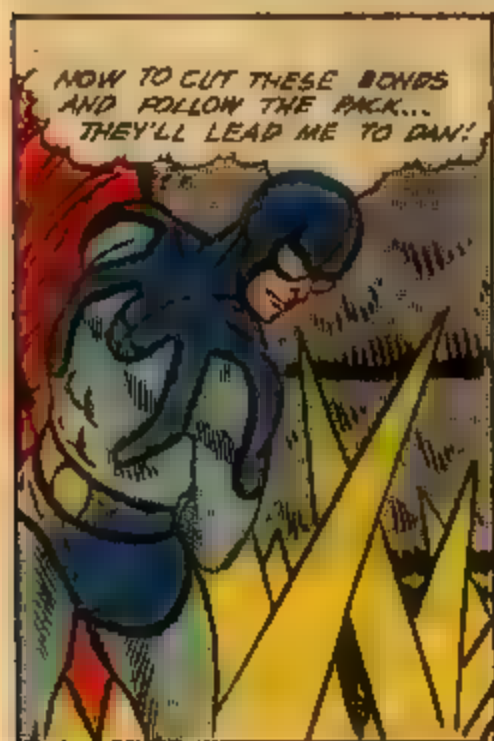
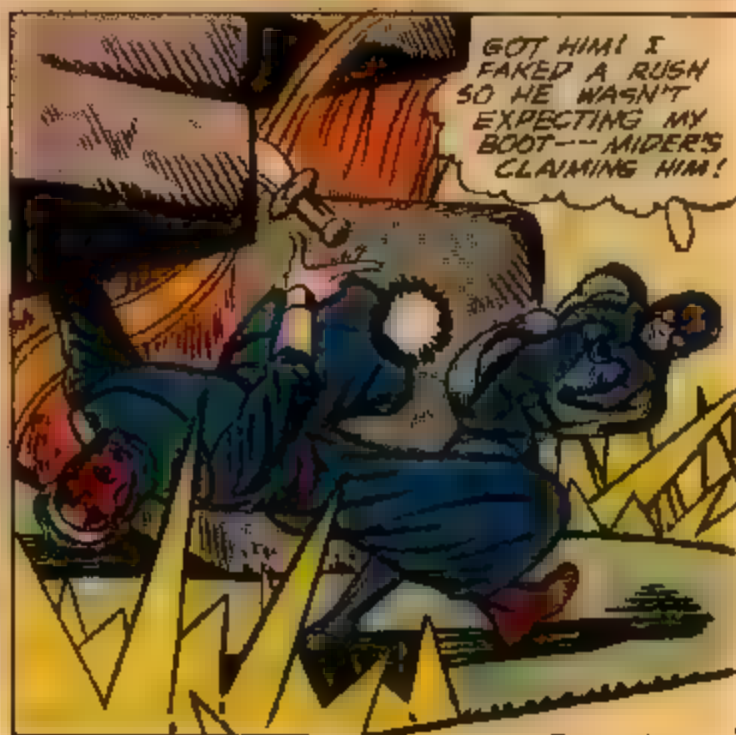
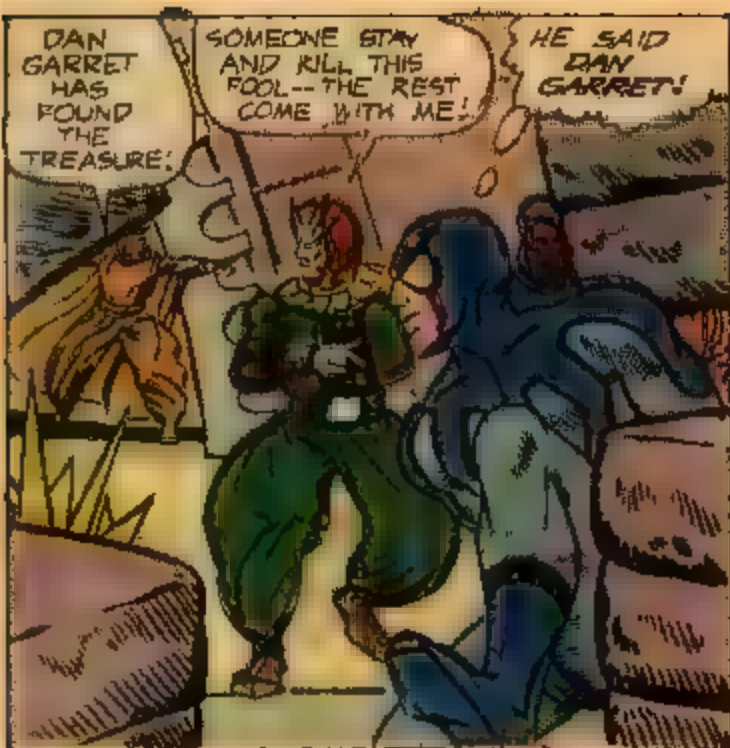
MY GUN WON'T DO HIM...
OR ME ANY GOOD!

SAY! IF DAN IS HERE
HE'LL HAVE TO GO UP
AGAINST THESE
JOKERS! WILL HE
DO IT AS THE
BLUE BEETLE?









BACK IN HUB CITY...

LT FISHER AREN'T YOU EVER SATISFIED? WHAT DO YOU WANT? TED CAN'T SEE YOU NOW!

WHY NOT? YOU'RE NOT HIDING SOMETHING FROM ME ARE YOU, TRACEY? WHERE'S KORD?



I WON'T LEAVE TILL I SEE HIM;

VERY WELL! TED'S INSIDE WORKING ON AN EXPERIMENT! HE'LL OPEN THE VIEWER.

OH, NO! JUST A MINUTE!



LT, I SPENT THREE WEEKS SETTING UP THIS EXPERIMENT. I CAN'T LET IT GET OUT OF CONTROL, SO MAKE IT SHORT! WHAT IS IT?

EVERYTHING'S PHONEY ABOUT GARRET'S APPEARANCE AND DISAPPEARANCE AGAIN! IF YOU'VE SET THIS UP TO THROW ME OFF THE TRACK I'LL...



LT FISHER DOESN'T KNOW THAT IT'S A FILM OF TED HE'S WATCHING. TED SPOKE THE INTRODUCTION HIMSELF NOW I CAN ANSWER THE QUESTIONS WITH THIS GIZMO WHILE TED IS SEEN WORKING!

COULD I HAVE PLANNED OUR SEEING CAN TOGETHER?

I'LL ADMIT YOUR REACTION SEEMED GENUINE! YOU DIDN'T EXPECT TO SEE HIM... OR ME!



WELL THEN... OH, NO! AN OVERACT LT, CAN'T THIS TALK WAIT?

OKAY, KORD! YOU SEEM TO HAVE YOUR HANDS FULL SO YOU WON'T BE GOING ANYWHERE FOR A WHILE!



IF YOU'RE KEEPING SCORE, TRACEY, I DIDN'T GET ANYWHERE AGAIN!

YOU NEVER WILL! THERE'S NOWHERE TO GET! YOU'RE WASTING YOUR TIME!



MAYBE, BUT I'LL KEEP COMING BACK UNTIL THIS THING IS CLEARED UP... ONE WAY OR THE OTHER!

MAYBE SOMEONE WILL DO THAT JOB FOR YOU!



CONTINUED AFTER THE NEXT PAGE

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See through fingers—through skin—see yolk of egg—see lead in pencil. Many, many amazing, astounding illusory "X-Ray" views yours to see ALWAYS — when YOU wear Slimline "X-Ray" Specs. Bring them to parties for real FUN — GUARANTEED — They give you a 3-dimensional Illusion of "X-Ray" Vision — the instant you put them on. When you look at your friends you'll "see" the most (blushingly funny) amazing things! No real "X-Ray" vision is obtained, but you get an illusion of "X-Ray" vision so amazing you will hardly believe your eyes. Full instructions on How To Enjoy Them To The Fullest! Last for Years. Harmless — Requires No Electricity or Batteries — Comes Complete — Permanently Focused. Nothing Else to Buy. Send \$1. plus 25¢ for postage and handling or send \$2. for the De Luxe Model. Money Back If Not 100% Satisfied.

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Send me the Slimline "X-Ray" Specs. or \$2 for De Luxe Model.
My money will be refunded in full if I am not 100% Satisfied.

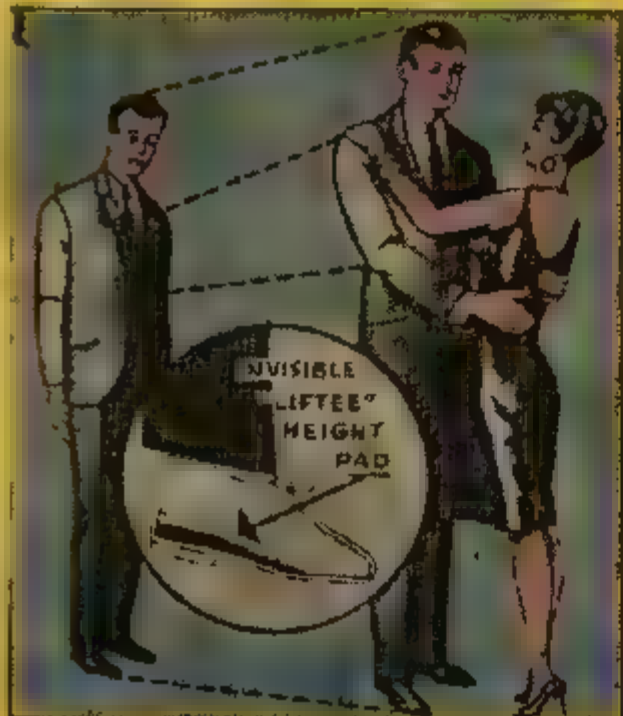
Send me ☐ Specs. ☐ De Luxe

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"LIFTEE" HEIGHT INCREASE PADS**

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ONLY \$1.98
per pair
AMAZING LOW PRICE!

SEND NO MONEY!

Free 10 Day Trial! Mail coupon today

Pay postman on delivery, only \$1.98 plus postage per pair of "LIFTEE" HEIGHT INCREASE PADS. Or send only \$1.98 with order and we pay postage 10 DAY TRIAL. MUST SATISFY OR MONEY WILL BE REFUNDED.

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THE LIFTEE COMPANY, DEPT. 452

Box 808, Church Street, New York, N.Y. 10008

Rush my "Liftee" Height increase pads in the size checked. I will pay postman on delivery only \$1.98 plus postage. I must be satisfied or I can return the pads within 10 day trial for a full refund.

Check Box — State shoe size:

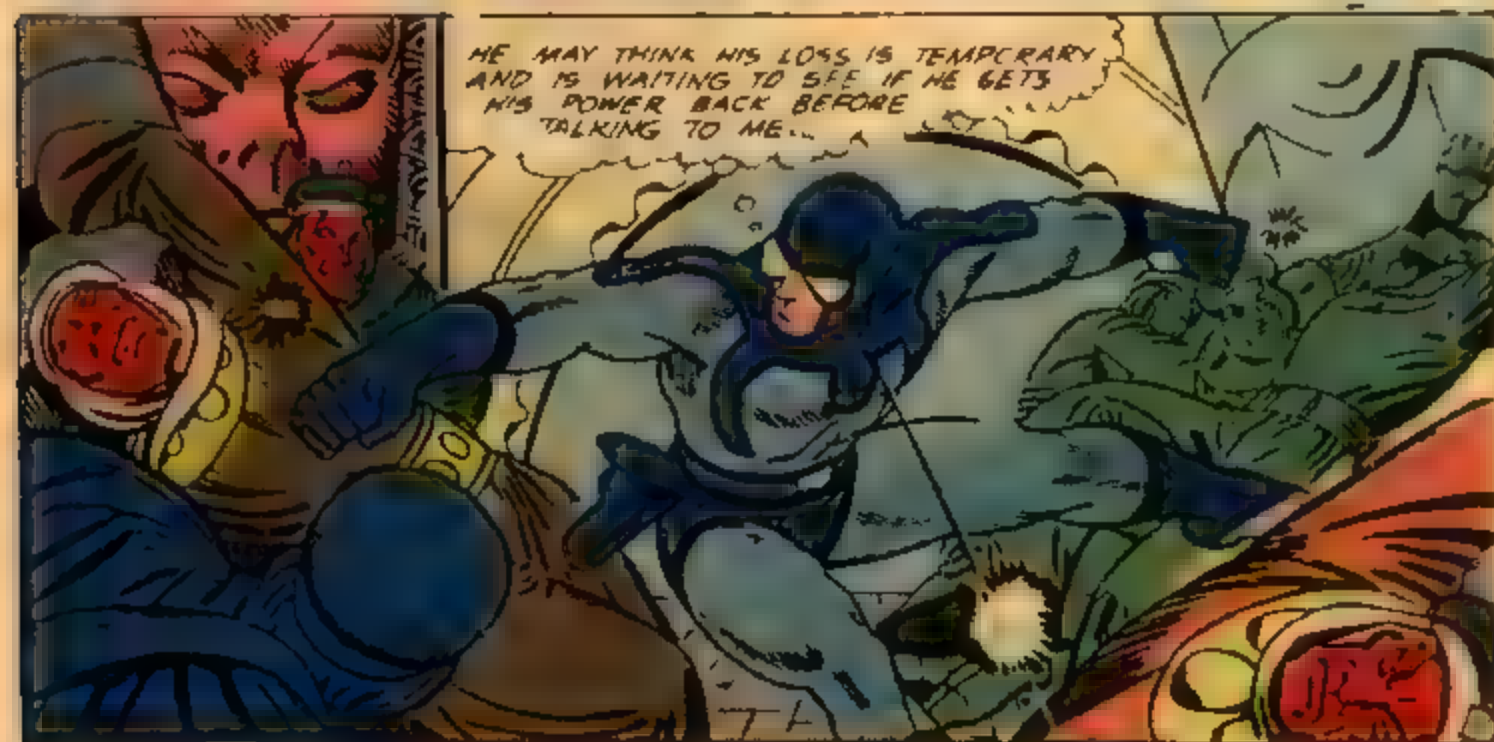
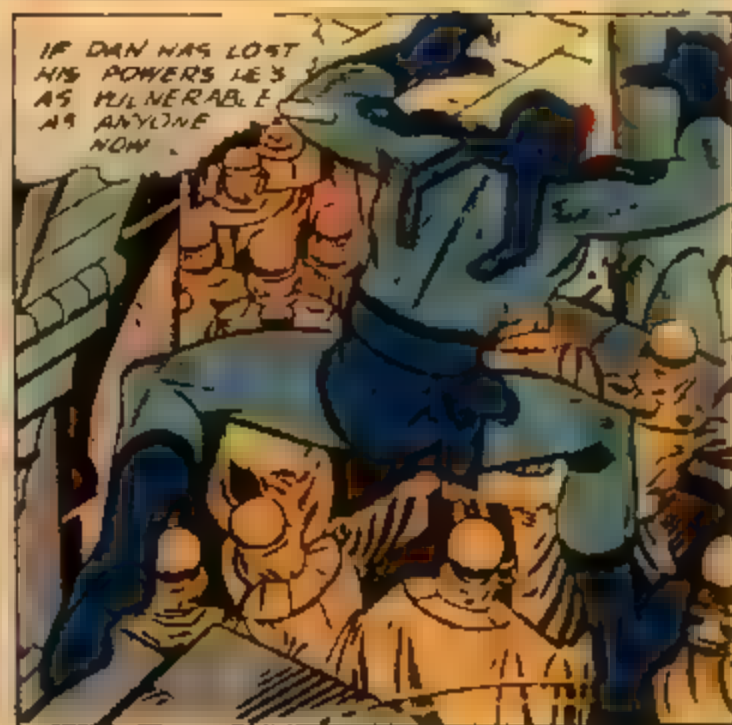
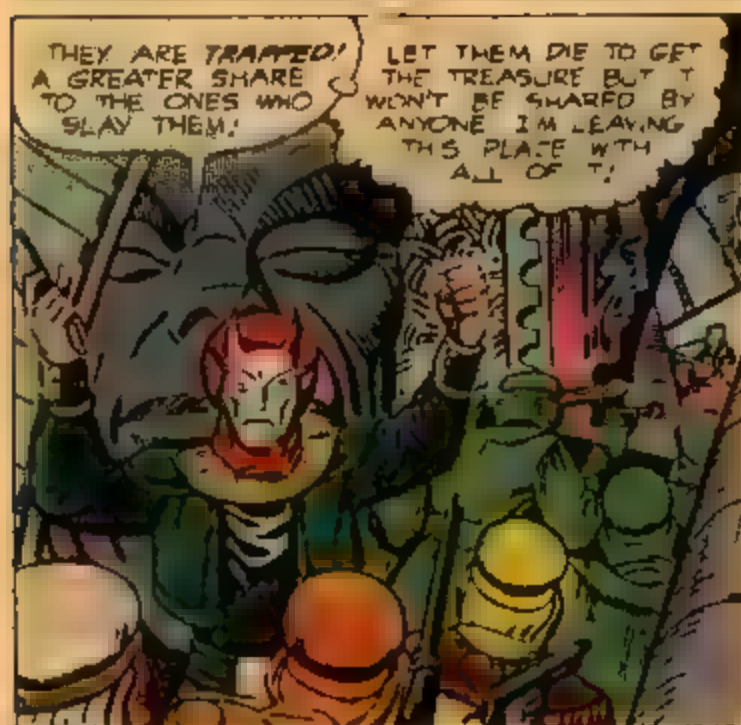
☐ Mens Shoe Size ☐ Ladies Shoe Size

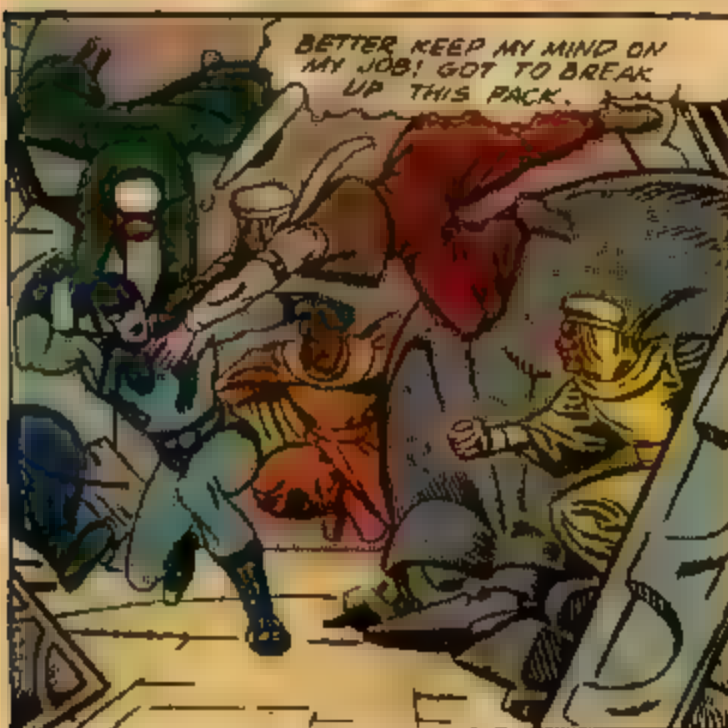
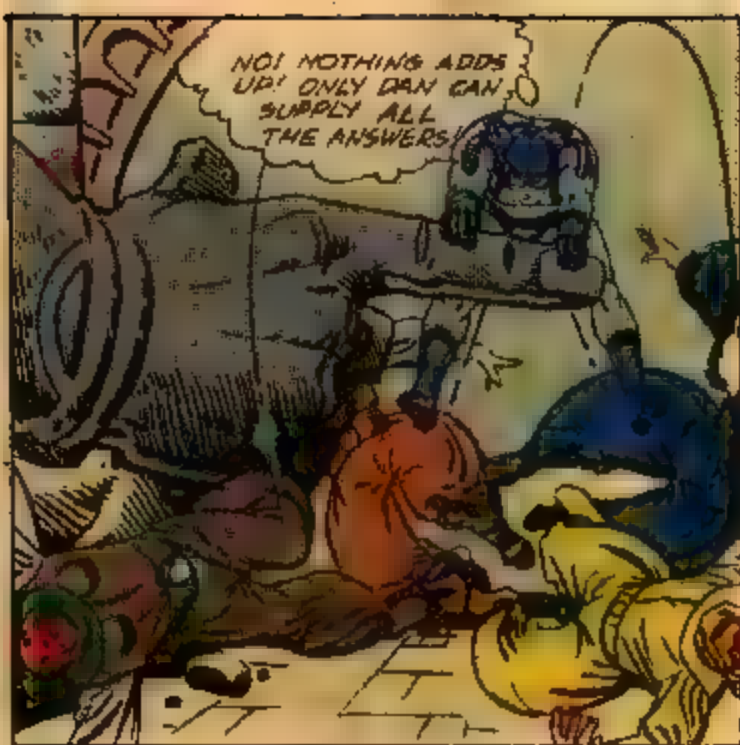
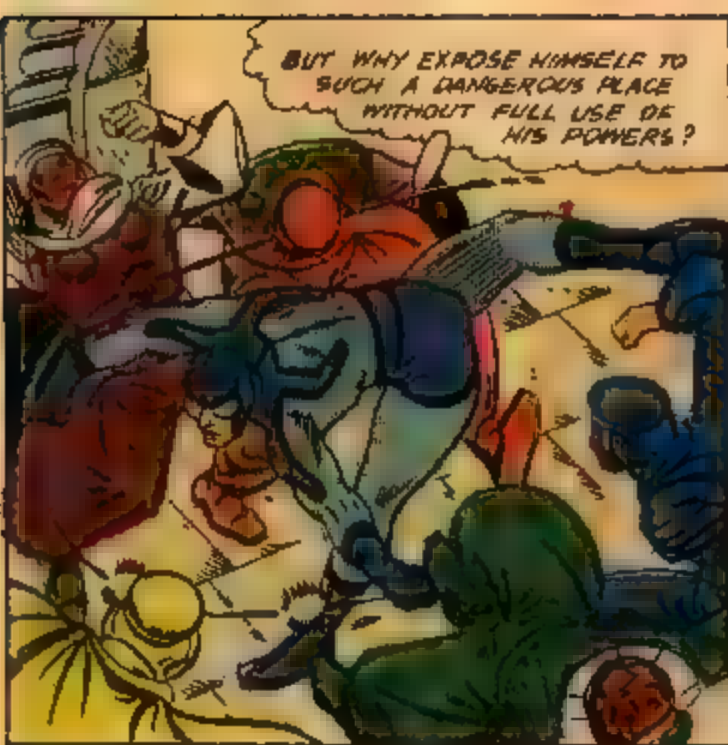
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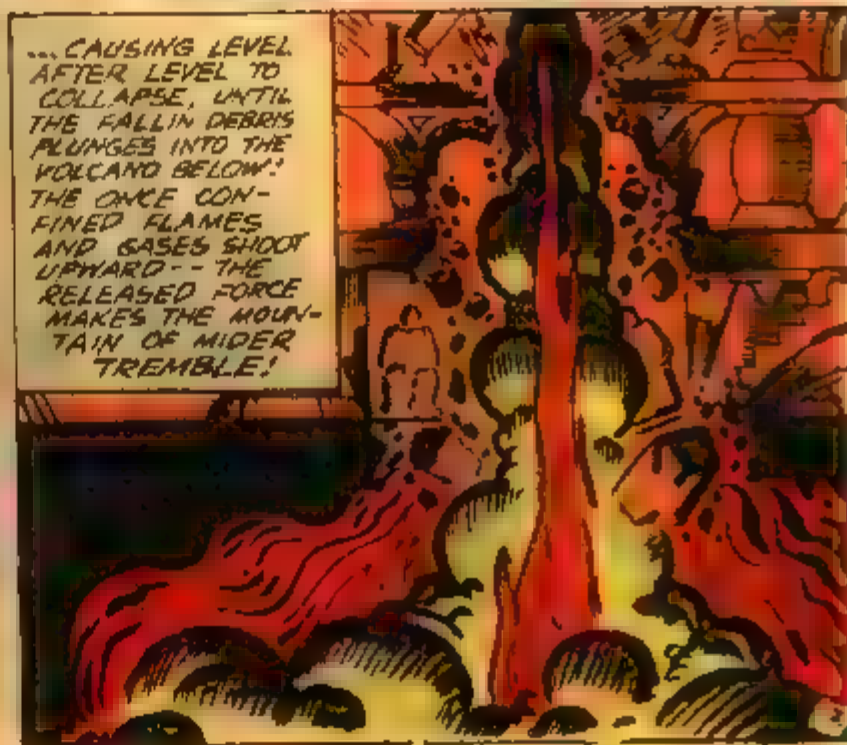
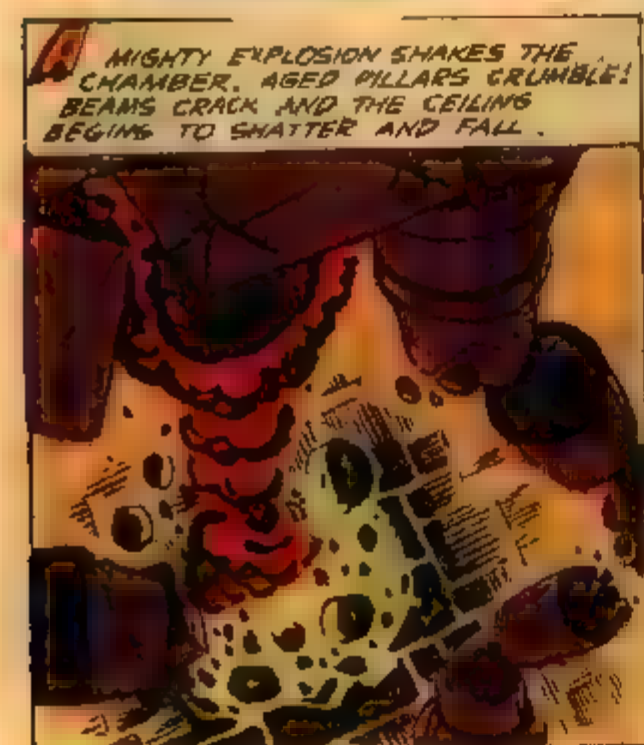
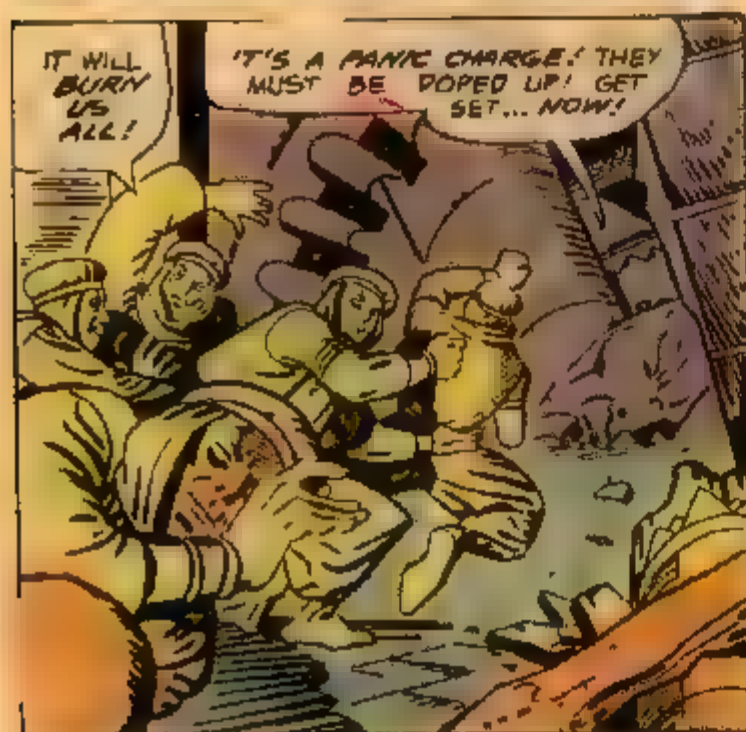
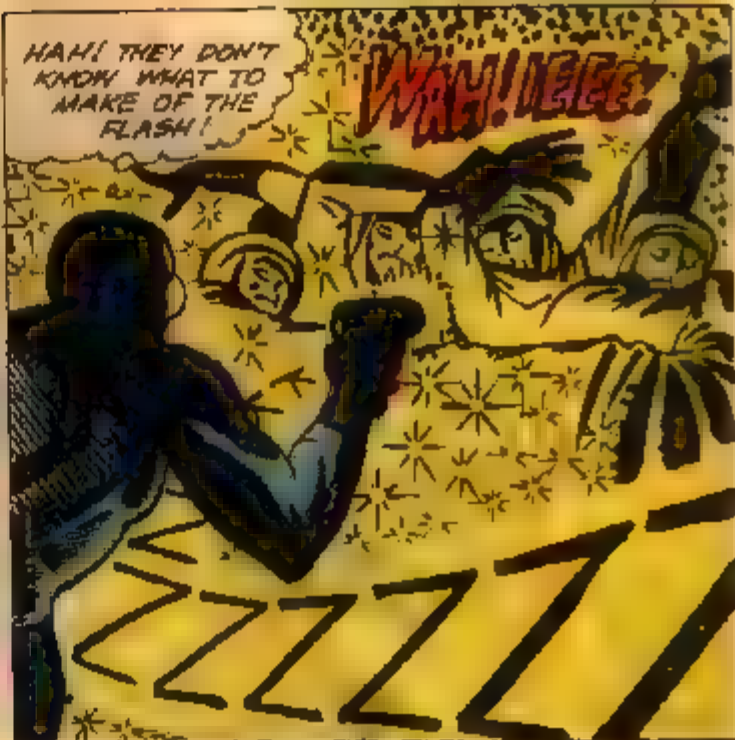
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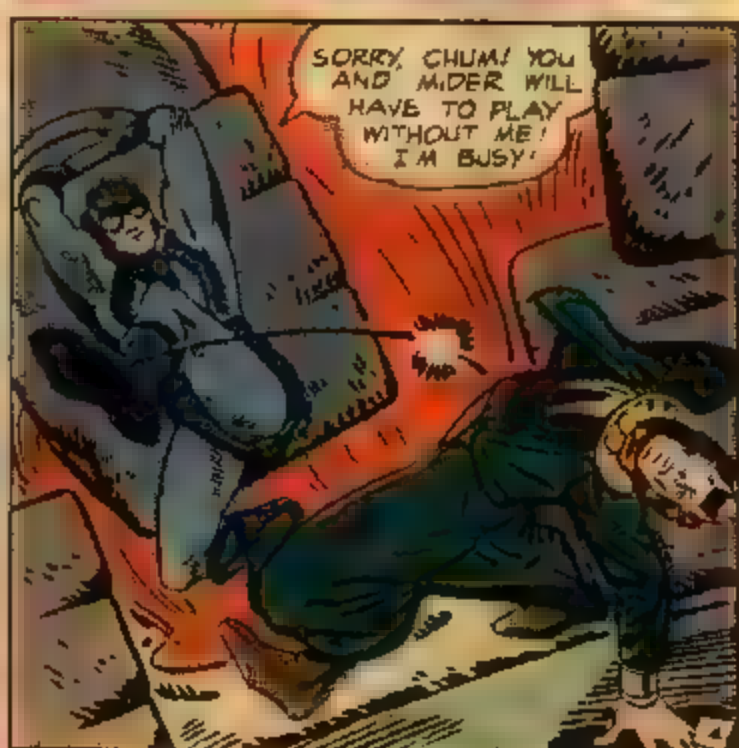
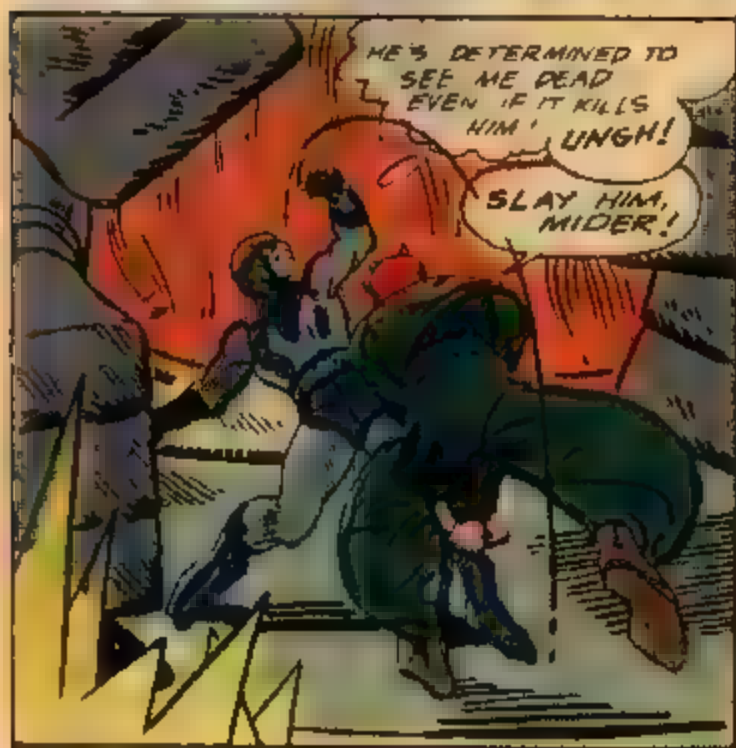
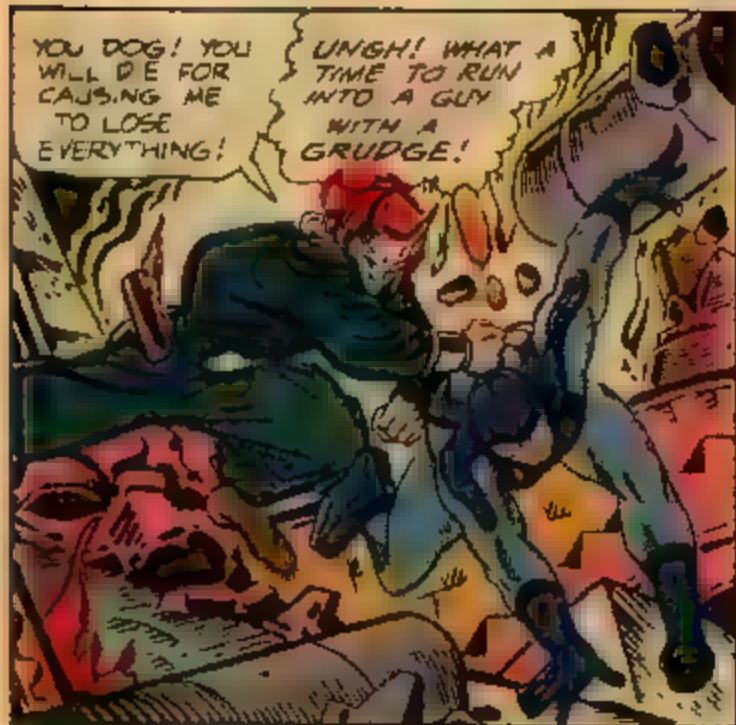
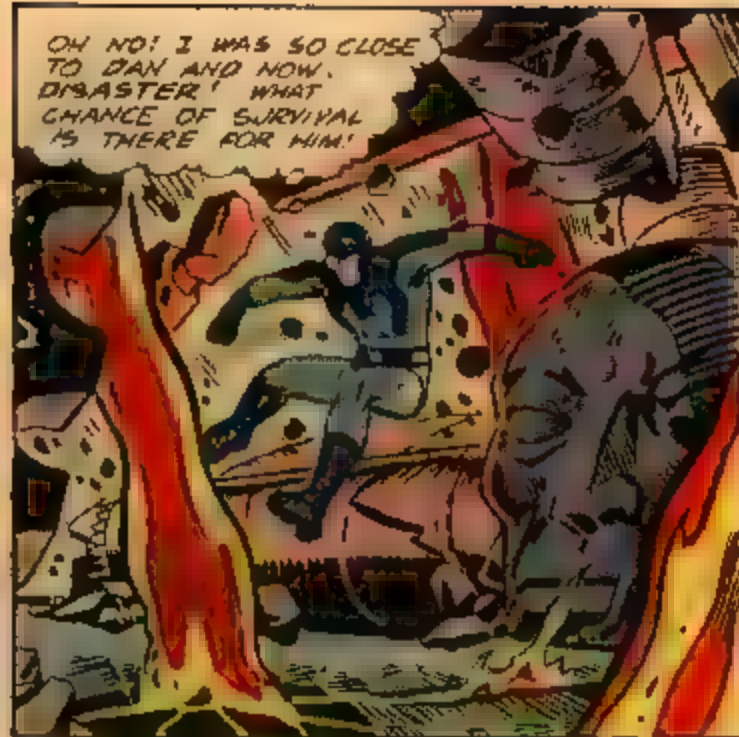
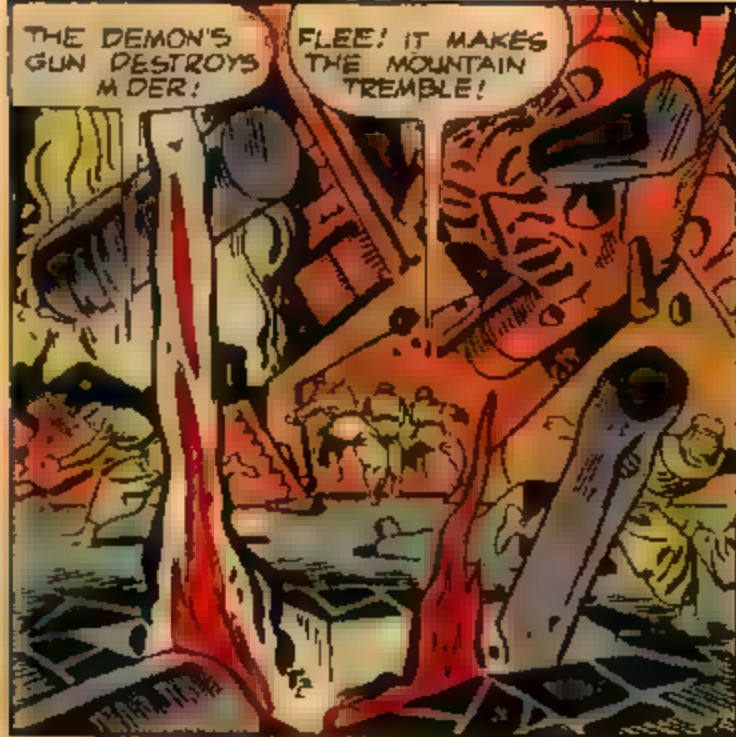
ADDRESS

CITY STATE ZIP











STOP STRUGGLING,
DAN... I WON'T
HURT YOU!

NO ONE'S
STOPPING ME!
NOT NOW!
I'LL KILL
YOU!



WHO... YOU'RE
NOT DAN!
WHO... WHY?!

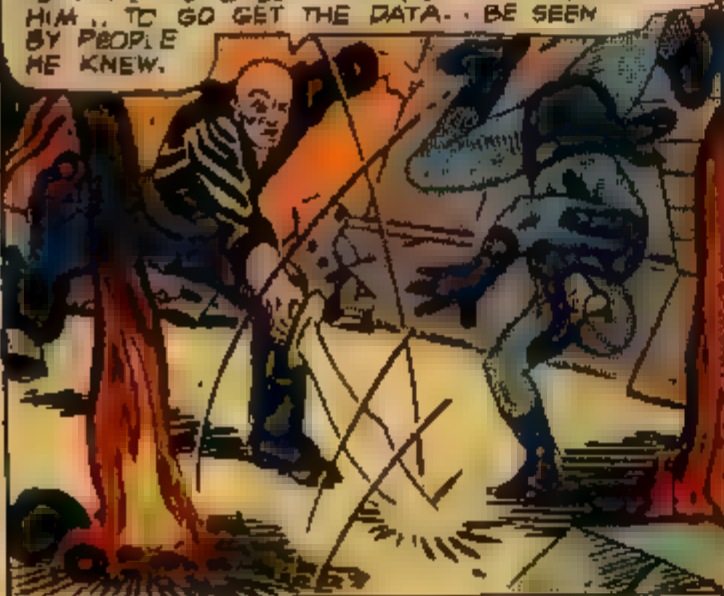
AND YOU'RE
NOT THE
BLUE BEETLE
HE'S MET
ME!



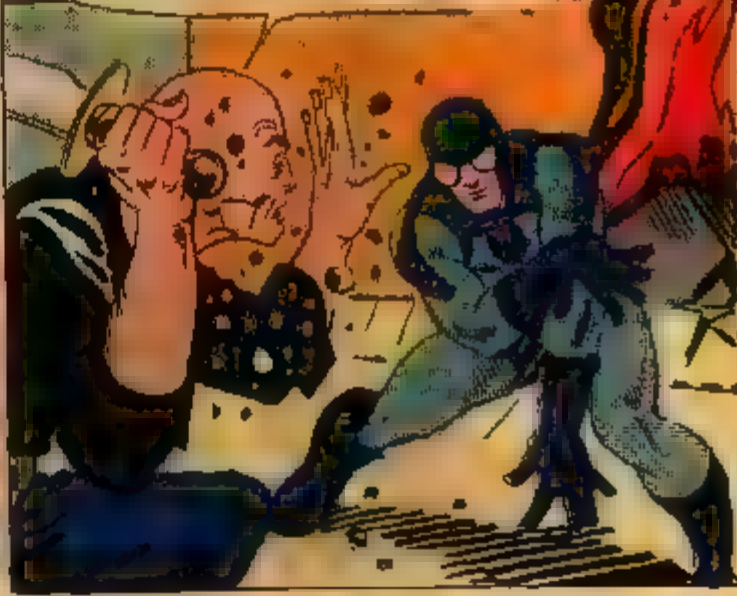
NO ONE'S STOPPING ME! AT LAST,
DAN GREER GETS WHAT'S
COMING TO HIM! I WAS ON
ANOTHER EXPEDITION WITH GAR-
RET BUT NEVER RECEIVED MY
DUE OF FAME OR THE TREASURE!
NOW I'VE COLLECTED
FOR MYSELF!



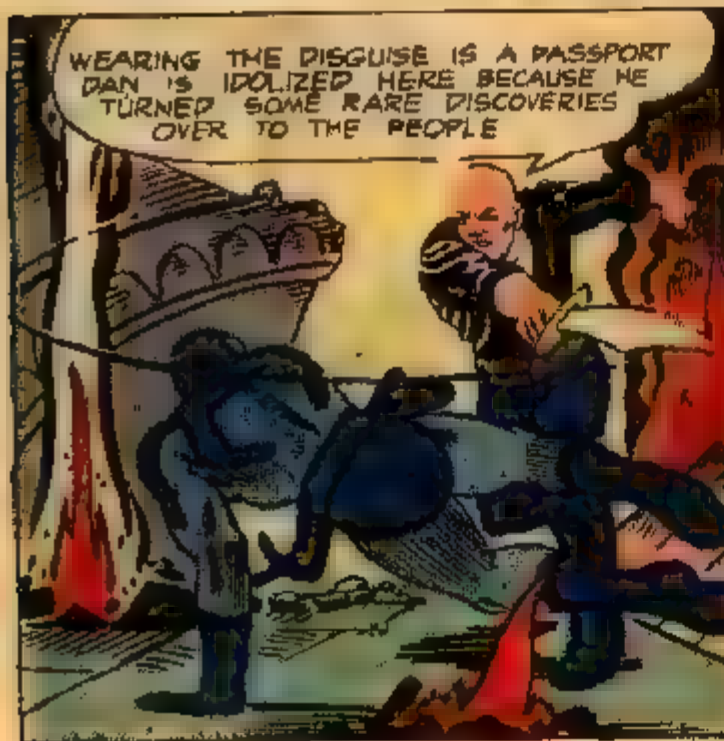
THIS WAS TO BE GARRET'S EXPEDITION! I WAS
ORGANIZING IT WHILE DAN WAS IN HUB CITY
GATHERING DATA BUT SOMETHING HAPPENED
TO HIM, SO I GOT THE IDEA OF IMPERSONATING
HIM... TO GO GET THE DATA... BE SEEN
BY PEOPLE
HE KNEW.



I MADE IT APPEAR AS IF DAN HAD AN ACCIDENT
...IT THREW EVERYONE OFF! THEN I CAME HERE
AS HIM TO FIND A TREASURE INSTEAD OF
RECORDING A DEAD PAST.



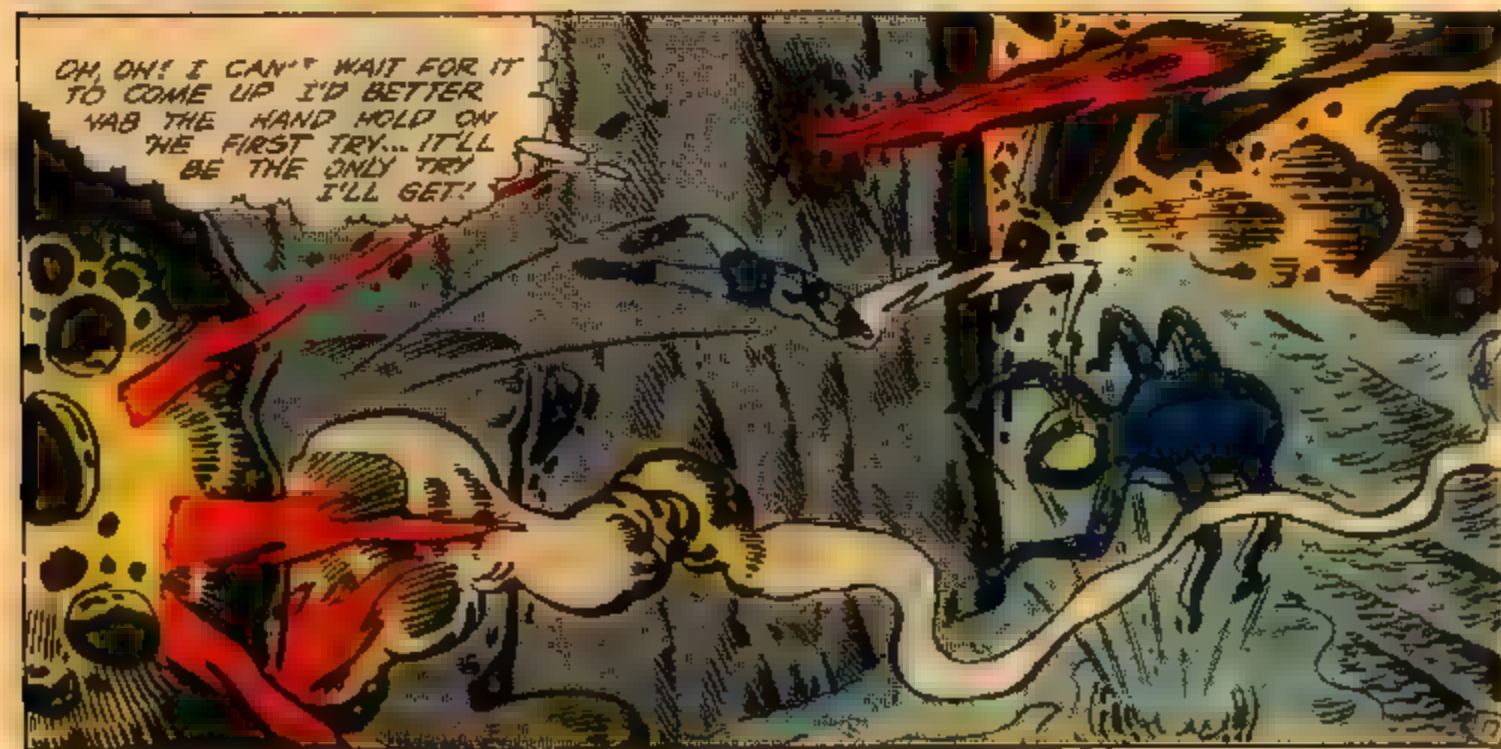
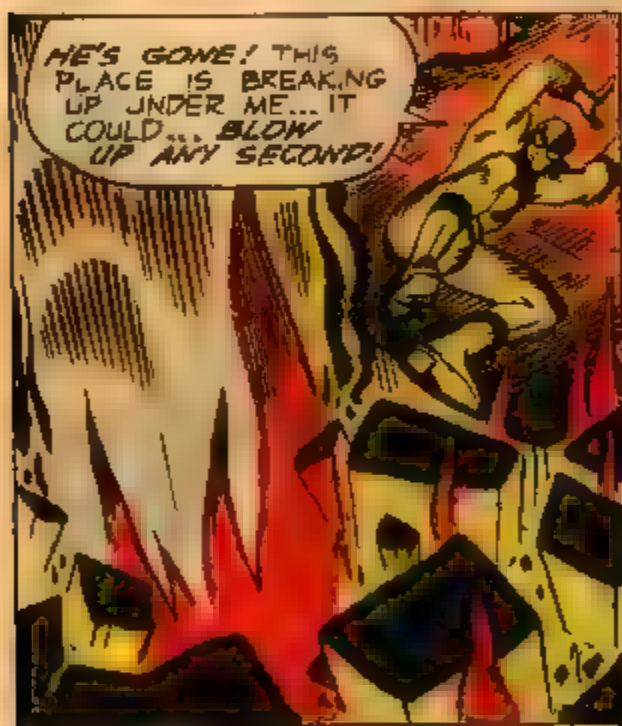
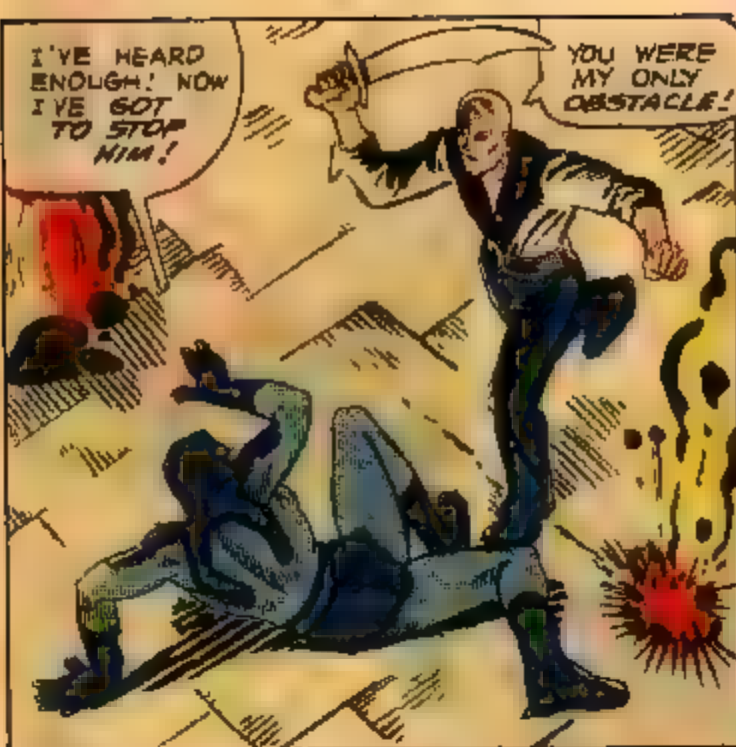
WEARING THE DISGUISE IS A PASSPORT
DAN IS IDOLIZED HERE BECAUSE HE
TURNED SOME RARE DISCOVERIES
OVER TO THE PEOPLE

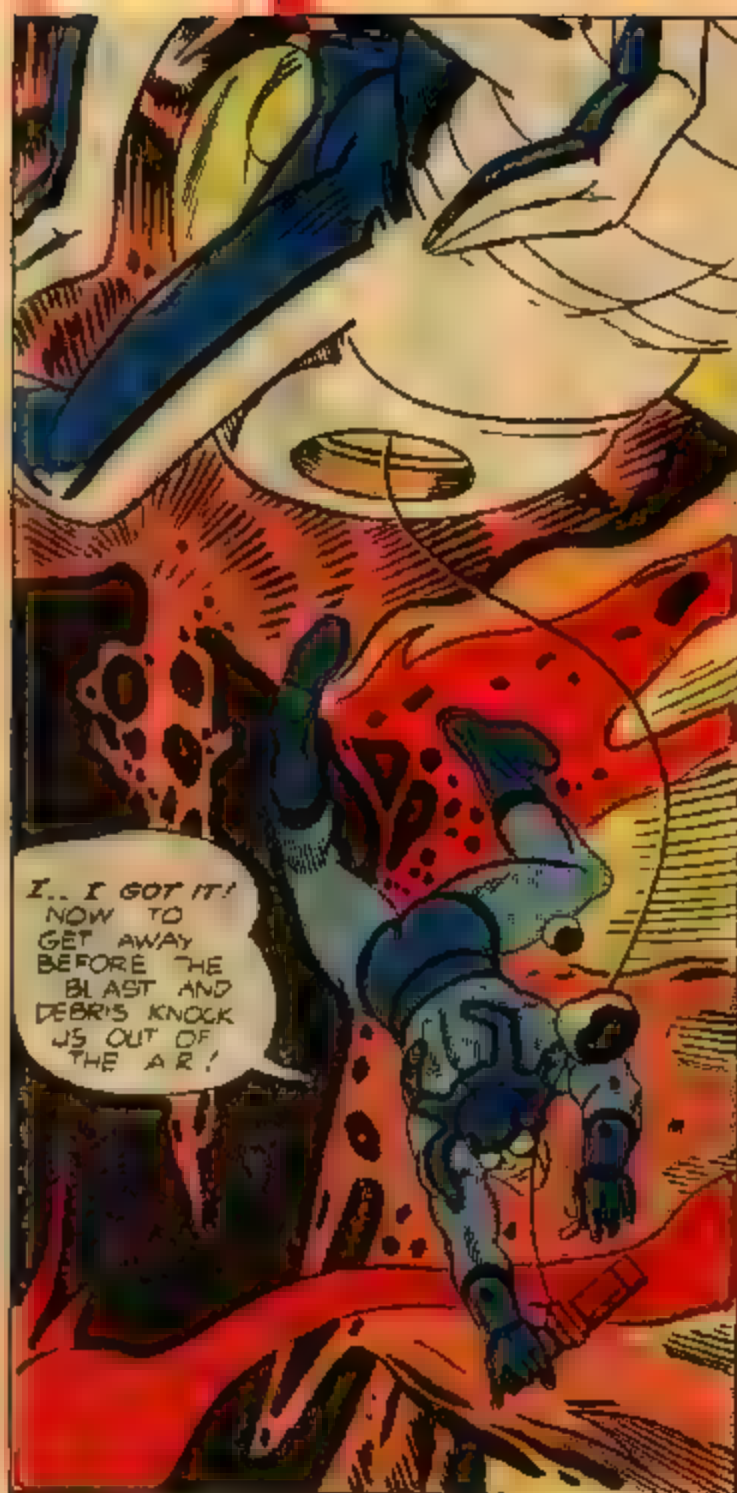


NO ONE SUGGESTS ME OR THAT
I HAVE THE TREASURE

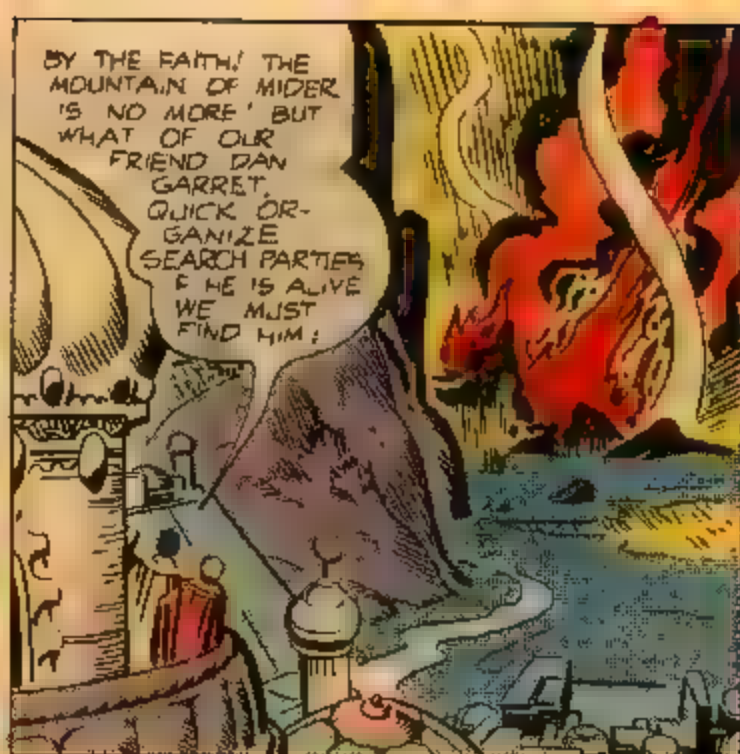
UNGH!!



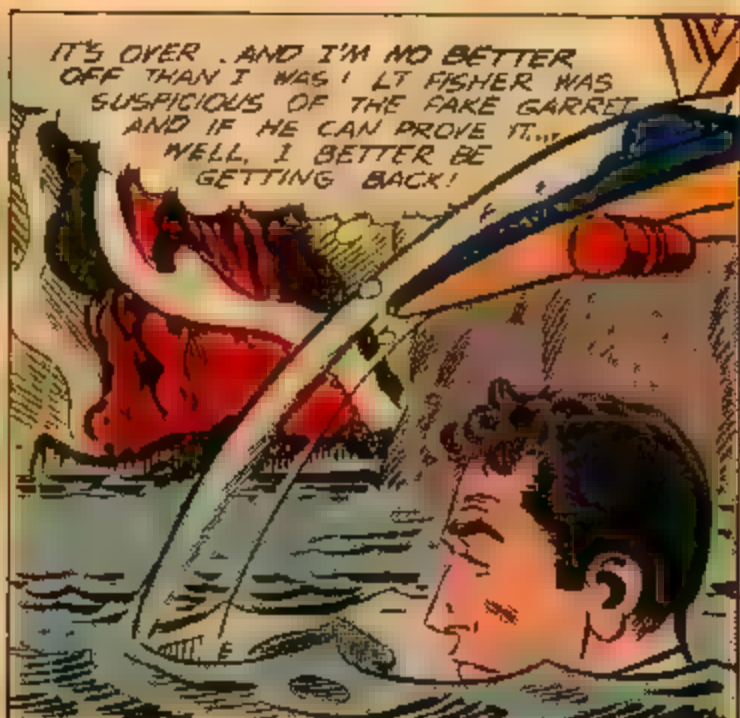




I.. I GOT IT!
NOW TO
GET AWAY
BEFORE THE
BLAST AND
DEBRIS KNOCK
US OUT OF
THE AIR!

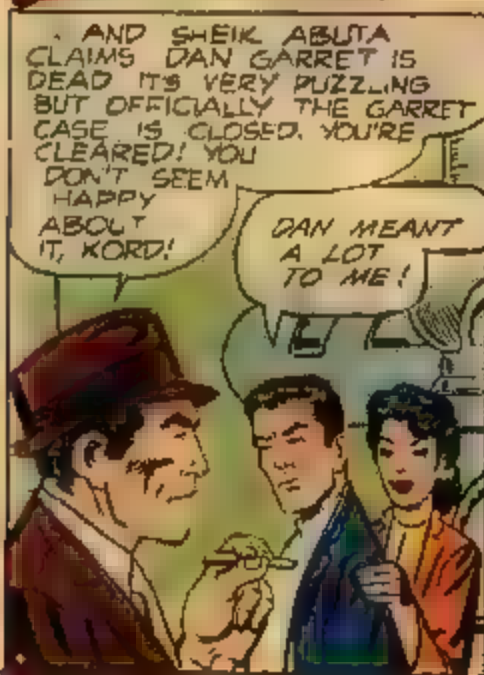


BY THE FAITH! THE
MOUNTAIN OF MIDER
IS NO MORE! BUT
WHAT OF OUR
FRIEND DAN
GARRET.
QUICK OR-
GANIZE
SEARCH PARTIES
IF HE IS ALIVE
WE MUST
FIND HIM!



IT'S OVER, AND I'M NO BETTER
OFF THAN I WAS! LT FISHER WAS
SUSPICIOUS OF THE FAKE GARRET
AND IF HE CAN PROVE IT...
WELL, I BETTER BE
GETTING BACK!

SOME TIME LATER..



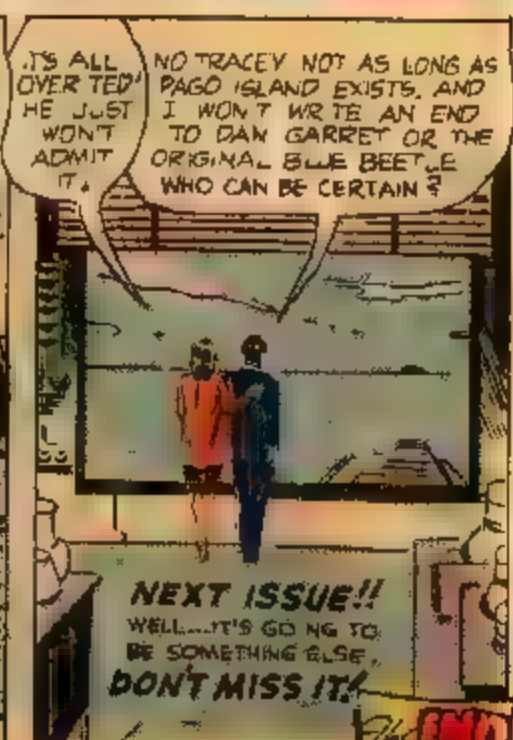
AND SHEIK ABUTA
CLAIMS DAN GARRET IS
DEAD IT'S VERY PUZZLING
BUT OFFICIALLY THE GARRET
CASE IS CLOSED. YOU'RE
CLEARED! YOU
DON'T SEEM
HAPPY
ABOUT
IT, KORD!

DAN MEANT
A LOT
TO ME!



YOU SAID
'OFFICIALLY
CLOSED'.
DO YOU
PERSONALLY
CONSIDER
THE CASE
CLOSED?

THERE'S SOME-
THING ABOUT
YOU, KORD,
AND MY FREE
TIME IS MY
OWN SO--
WE'LL SEE!



IT'S ALL
OVER TED!
HE JUST
WON'T
ADMIT
IT!

NO TRACEY NOT AS LONG AS
PAGO ISLAND EXISTS. AND
I WON'T WRITE AN END
TO DAN GARRET OR THE
ORIGINAL BLUE BEETLE
WHO CAN BE CERTAIN?

NEXT ISSUE!!
WELL...IT'S GOING TO
BE SOMETHING ELSE.
DON'T MISS IT!

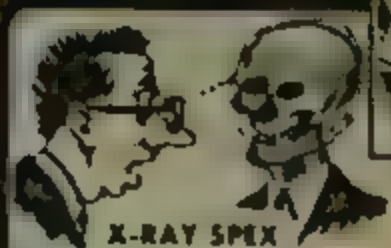
THE END

EXCLUSIVE FUN PRODUCTS *by mail*



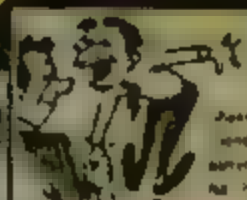
TRICK BASEBALL

Send \$1.95 for a baseball that will do anything you want it to. Just say the word and it will do it. There's a barrel of fun in every baseball of this exciting baseball.
No. 2017 _____ only \$1.95



X-RAY SPEX

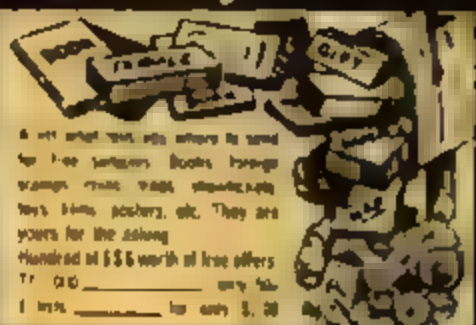
A wonderful addition to your vision. Put this on and you'll see what you want and hear what you want. Put it on and you'll see through anything.
No. 2018 _____ only \$1.95



JOY BUZZER

Just push and hear a loud buzz. It's a great way to get your attention. Put it on and you'll hear what you want.
No. 2019 _____ only \$1.95

1001 things for FREE!

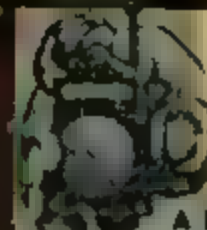


A set which will allow you to send for 1001 different things. Books, stamps, records, toys, posters, etc. They are yours for the asking. Hundreds of \$55 worth of free offers.
Tr. 210 _____ only \$1.95
1 inch _____ for only \$1.95



BIKE SPEEDOMETER

Now you can tell how fast you are going. Register speeds up to 50 miles per hour. New built-in compass also shows in what direction you are traveling. Fits any bicycle. Attaches to seatpost.
No. 2020 _____ only \$1.95



A MINIATURE MARVEL

A miniature Marvel comic book. It's a great way to get your attention. Put it on and you'll see what you want.
No. 2021 _____ only \$1.95



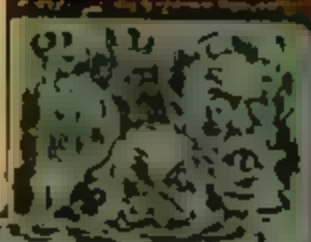
SILVER SKULL RING

Wear this ring with the raised face of skull and mind. It's a great way to get your attention. Put it on and you'll see what you want.
No. 2022 _____ only \$1.95



LOUD NOISE DEVICE

Now you can hear what you want. It's a great way to get your attention. Put it on and you'll see what you want.
No. 2023 _____ only \$1.95



GROW LIVE MONSTERS

A great way to get your attention. Put it on and you'll see what you want. It's a great way to get your attention. Put it on and you'll see what you want.
No. 2024 _____ only \$1.95



MINIATURE SECRET CAMERA

Put this camera in your pocket. It's a great way to get your attention. Put it on and you'll see what you want. It's a great way to get your attention. Put it on and you'll see what you want.
No. 2025 _____ only \$1.95



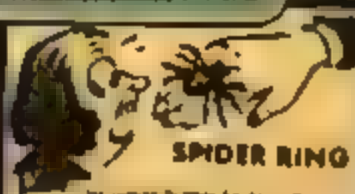
PEPPER GUM

It's a great way to get your attention. Put it on and you'll see what you want. It's a great way to get your attention. Put it on and you'll see what you want.
No. 2026 _____ only \$1.95



FLY IN ICE

A plastic ice cube that looks like the real thing. It's a great way to get your attention. Put it on and you'll see what you want. It's a great way to get your attention. Put it on and you'll see what you want.
No. 2027 _____ only \$1.95



SPIDER RING

It's a great way to get your attention. Put it on and you'll see what you want. It's a great way to get your attention. Put it on and you'll see what you want.
No. 2028 _____ only \$1.95

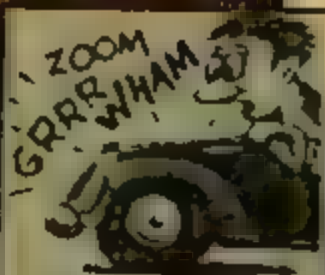


This is one of the most exciting books on the art of self-defense. It's a great way to get your attention. Put it on and you'll see what you want. It's a great way to get your attention. Put it on and you'll see what you want.
No. 2029 _____ only \$1.95



THROW YOUR VOICE

Now you can hear what you want. It's a great way to get your attention. Put it on and you'll see what you want. It's a great way to get your attention. Put it on and you'll see what you want.
No. 2030 _____ only \$1.95



PRANKSTER WHISTLE

A great way to get your attention. Put it on and you'll see what you want. It's a great way to get your attention. Put it on and you'll see what you want.
No. 2031 _____ only \$1.95



TRICK BLACK SOAP

A great way to get your attention. Put it on and you'll see what you want. It's a great way to get your attention. Put it on and you'll see what you want.
No. 2032 _____ only \$1.95

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When you place your order, please send us your money order or check for the full amount. We will ship your order as soon as possible.

ITEM NO. NAME OF ITEM QUANTITY TOTAL PRICE

NAME _____ ADDRESS _____



the BEETLE'S NEST

ADDRESS MAIL TO: THE BEETLE'S NEST
CHARLTON COMICS GROUP, DERBY, CONN. 06418

DEAR EDITOR:

ZOWIE! HAVE YOU IMPROVED THE BLUE BEETLE! THE 'OLD' BLUE BEETLE WAS SORT OF A DRAG, I MEAN GETTING HIS POWERS FROM EGYPTIAN GODS, AND HALF THE TIME YOU DIDN'T KNOW JUST WHAT HIS POWERS WERE! THE 'NEW' BLUE BEETLE, THOUGH, IS A BIG IMPROVEMENT, HE'S MORE HUMAN AND BELIEVABLE. KEEP HIM AS HE IS, DON'T CHANGE HIM A BIT, AND IN NO TIME THE BLUE BEETLE WILL BE THE MOST TALKED ABOUT HERO IN COMICDOM.

ALSO, IS THERE A CHANCE THAT CHARLTON CAN BRING BACK THE FLAME, GREEN MASK AND SPY SMASHER? THESE HEROES ARE TOO GOOD TO REMAIN IN COMIC LIMBO. PLEASE BRING THEM BACK!

JIM MESCHNITZ
BOX 465
BRENNHAM, TEXAS 77833

CONTRARY TO POPULAR BELIEF IN COMICDOM, WE DO NOT OWN THE RIGHTS TO THE FLAME, GREEN MASK, SPY SMASHER OR ANY OTHER FOX OR FAUCETT GOLDEN AGE SUPER-HEROES. SORRY!

DEAR EDITOR:

YOU MAY NOT KNOW IT BUT YOU HAVE ONE OF THE BEST NON SUPER-HEROES IN COMICS. I AM OF COURSE REFERRING TO THE QUESTION, BUT PLEASE DON'T GIVE HIM SUPER VILLAINS TO FIGHT, THAT WOULD ONLY RUIN HIM. BY THE WAY, HOW ABOUT COMING OUT WITH A GROUP OF SUPER-HEROES COMBINED IN ONE BOOK SUCH AS: BLUE BEETLE, PEACEMAKER, THUNDERBOLT AND NIGHTSHADE. CALL THEM THE 'MIGHTY ALLIES.'

JOSEPH LACKEY
303 E. BINGHAM ST.
STATESVILLE, N.C.

THE QUESTION WILL CONTINUE TO FIGHT ORDINARY CROOKS. OF COURSE, THESE CROOKS WILL OFTEN HAVE COSTUMES OF SORTS...BUT NO POWERS. WE FEEL THIS BIT'LL ADD COLOR TO THE QUESTION. HOW DO YOU GUYS FEEL?

SORRY, JOE! MUCH AS WE'D LIKE TO, WE MUST IGNORE TEAM-UPS FOR THE PRESENT. WE'RE TRYING TO REVAMP OUR LINE (34 ACTIVE TITLES) AND THERE SIMPLY ISN'T TIME TO DO THESE 'SPECIALS' PROPERLY.

DEAR EDITOR:

I HAVE HEARD ENOUGH! I HAVE READ LETTERS, LETTERS AND MORE LETTERS FROM FANS SAYING YOU ARE NO. 2. I DISAGREE. HERE ARE THE REASONS THEY SAY YOU ARE NO. 2.

1. TO GET THEIR LETTER PRINTED.
2. THEY ARE TOO YOUNG OR "SQUARE" TO APPRECIATE A GOOD COMIC BOOK.
3. THEY FLATTERY YOU TO ENCOURAGE YOU TO BECOME NO. 2.

BY MY OPINION YOU ARE NO. 6 AND HERE IS WHY I SAY SO: MARVEL HAS GOOD ART, STORIES, AND ANNUALS. THEY DO NOT CONFUSE YOU WITH VOLUME NUMBERS. THEY PROBE INTO THE BACKGROUND OF THEIR HEROES. TOWER'S ART IS EXCELLENT AND THEIR COMICS ARE WELL WORTH TWENTY-FIVE CENTS EVEN THOUGH THEY ARE 'MOYING OUT'. KING HAS OLD HEROES REVISED WITH GOOD ART WORK AND INTERESTING STORIES. D.C. PUBLISHES A WIDE VARIETY OF COMIC BOOKS SO THERE IS A BOOK FOR ALMOST EVERYBODY. GOLD KEY HAS GOOD ART WORK AND MANY UNUSUAL AND ORIGINAL 'HEROES.'

I USED TO BE A NO. 1 FAN OF CHARLTON UNTIL THEY MIXED UP THE VOLUMES, DECREASED THE QUALITY OF THE ART WORK, AND GOT OLD VILLAINS. I DID NOT BUY CHARLTON FOR ALMOST TWO YEARS AND WAS TOLD THEY HAD IMPROVED GREATLY. I BOUGHT BLUE BEETLE NO. 2 AND ENJOYED IT. I DID NOT LIKE BLUE BEETLE NO. 3 AS MUCH, MAINLY BECAUSE I DIS LIKE ROBOTS, NOT CLOWNS. I DO NOT THINK YOU WILL PRINT THIS LETTER, BUT I HOPE YOU DO. KEEP IMPROVING.

RICKEY SHANKLIN
4205 FITCH AVE.
BALTIMORE, MD.

KEEP IMPROVING! ACCORDING TO YOU THERE'S NOTHING TO IMPROVE!

WITH YOUR PERMISSION I'LL COMMENT ON SOME POINTS IN YOUR LETTER. FIRST BY THE NUMBER:

1. YOU SAID WE ARE NUMBER SIX TO GET YOUR LETTER PRINTED. (SEE FINAL PARAGRAPH.) WHY KNOCK OTHERS AND THEN EMPLOY THE SAME TACTICS?
2. THIS IS OBVIOUSLY A "PUT-DOWN" OF ALL THOSE WHO DON'T SHARE YOUR OPINION. "IF THEY DON'T LIKE WHAT I LIKE, THEY GOTTA BE STUPID...OR YOUNG"...OR "SQUARE." IF THIS STATEMENT IS INDICATIVE OF THOSE READERS WHO ARE "WEP" (OPPOSITE OF "SQUARE"), WE'RE NOT SURE WE SHOULD TRY TO APPEAL TO "WIPPIEST!"

3. FLATTERY COULDN'T POSSIBLY MAKE US NO. 2...ONLY SALES CAN! DO YOU HONESTLY FEEL THERE IS SOMETHING INHERENTLY WRONG IN OUR READERS ENCOURAGING US TO BECOME BETTER?

YOU HAVE EVIDENTLY PAID YOUR 12¢ TO PURCHASE OUR PRODUCT. THIS ENTITLES YOU TO CONSIDER US NO. 6 OR NO. 60. THE SAME RIGHT BELONGS TO ALL THOSE WHO PURCHASE CHARLTON COMICS. I'M SURE THAT MANY OF OUR READERS, AS WELL AS MARVELITES, D.C. FANS AND REGULAR READERS OF ALL COMIC PUBLISHERS, WOULD TAKE EXCEPTION TO SOME OF YOUR STATEMENTS.

BY THE WAY, RICKEY, HOW MUCH TIME DO YOU DEVOTE TO READING VOLUME NUMBERS? YOU DO SEEM TO BE HUNG-UP ON THESE. PERHAPS YOU'D LIKE TO SEE A CHARLTON ANNUAL WHICH CONTAINED JUST VOLUME NUMBERS...?

DEAR EDITOR:

I'LL SAY ONE THING FOR YOU GUYS, YOU NEVER SAY D E I! YOU TAKE A TWO-TIME LOSER, GIVE HIM A DECENT COSTUME, AND ORIGIN SIMILAR TO THAT OF THE HANGMAN OF THE MLJ ERA, AND WHAT DO YOU HAVE? ONE OF THE GREATEST SINCE DITKO FIRST STARTED SPIDERMAN.

I KNOW PRAISE LETTERS ARE A DIME A DOZEN, BUT IN MY OPINION WHEN A 'NEW' COMIC GROUP STARTS PUBLISHING A GOOD HERD (FOR A CHANGE! BLUE BEETLE OF 1954 WAS CRJAWY AND SO IS CAPTAIN ATOM. THUNDERBOLT IS OKAY, DITTO FOR THE PEACEMAKER. FIGHTIN' S WAS MEDIOCRE, BUT I ENJOYED SECRET AGENT SARGE STEEL.) THEY CAN NEVER HAVE TOO MUCH PRAISE EXCEPT WHEN FANS WRITE JUST SO THEIR LETTERS WILL BE PRINTED AND THEY REALLY DON'T LIKE YOUR MAGS THAT WELL.

GETTING OFF THE 'NEW' BLUE BEETLE FOR A WHILE.. I REALLY ENJOYED THE INTERVIEW WITH DICK GIORDANO IN BOMB-SHELL NO. 7.

THE QUESTION IS GREAT, JUST KEEP IT AT 1 OR 2 PAGES, AND 2 OR 3 PANELS A PAGE. YOUR BOOK REMINDS ME A LOT OF THE GOLDEN AGE, ALTHOUGH I WASN'T READING COMICS THEN. I HAVE SEEN MANY OF THE TWO CHARACTERS, PAGES WITH SEVERAL MORE PANELS, THE WAY YOU SET OFF THE COVER LOGO FROM THE REST OF THE COVER, ETC. JUST KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK AND I'LL ALWAYS READ THE 'NEW' BLUE BEETLE.

THERE IS ONLY ONE PROBLEM NOW...I BLANCHED AT THE 'NEW' BLUE BEETLE NO. 1 AND SAID TO MYSELF, "OH NO, NOT AGAIN! CONSEQUENTLY, I DIDN'T BUY IT. I NEED THE 'NEW' BLUE BEETLE NO. 1. PLEASE, IF ANYBODY CAN HELP ME OUT (FANS, YOU, ETC.), PLEASE WRITE AND NAME YOUR PRICE.

THANK YOU!

TIMOTHY M. NESSEE
512 W. 5TH STREET
CONCORDIA, KANSAS

THANKS, TIM. A KIND WORD NOW AND THEN HELPS KEEP THINGS IN THEIR PROPER PERSPECTIVE.

OF COURSE, SOME FANS WRITE JUST TO GET THEIR LETTER PRINTED. SOME OF THESE LETTERS ARE SO OBVIOUS THAT THEY WOULD NEVER BE CONSIDERED FOR A LETTER PAGE. WE CAN ONLY HOPE THE OTHERS ARE SINCERE. AFTER ALL, IF WE DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU WANT, WE CAN'T GIVE YOU WHAT YOU WANT...CAN WE?

DEAR EDITOR:

THOUGH FAIRLY NEW, THE BLUE BEETLE IS ONE OF THE BEST SUPER-HEROES, MAINLY BECAUSE OF THE ART BY STEVE DITKO. ISSUE NO. 3 WAS THE BEST EVER, TO SAY THE LEAST, HAVING BLUE BEETLE'S GUN A FLASHGUN, WAS NOT ONLY SURPRISING, BUT HIGHLY ORIGINAL. NOT TO MENTION A STROKE OF GENIUS. THE SPECTRUM OF THE MADMEN'S UNIFORMS WAS GREAT.

I HAVE A FEW QUESTIONS THOUGH. THEY ARE.

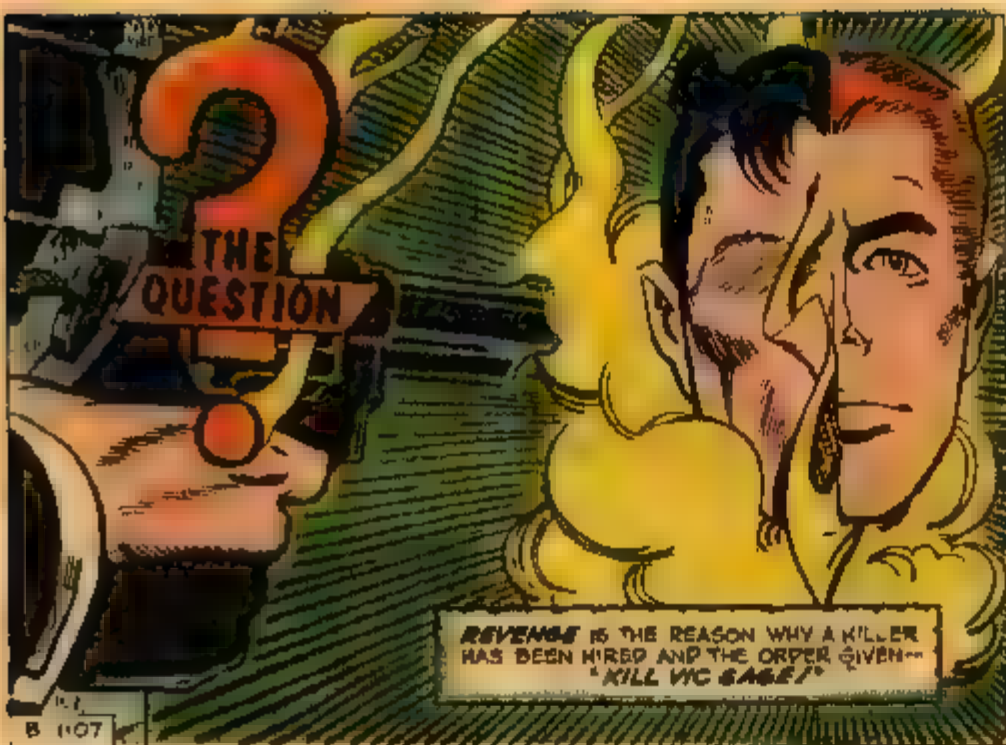
1. ARE YOUR COMICS SENT TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES?
2. IS IT POSSIBLE TO SEND FOR A SUBSCRIPTION OF MORE THAN ONE YEAR?
3. IS THE BLUE BEETLE GOING TO HAVE A REGULAR SUPER-FOE?

IF YOU KEEP BLUE BEETLE AT ITS PRESENT POINT OF GREATNESS. IT WILL BECOME MORE POPULAR THAN SPIDERMAN.

PAUL GAFFORD
140 LONE OAK DRIVE
NEW MILFORD, CONN.

IN ANSWER TO YOUR QUESTIONS.

1. YES, OUR COMICS ARE SENT TO MANY FOREIGN COUNTRIES.
 2. NO, SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE LIMITED TO ONE YEAR AT A TIME.
 3. THIS QUESTION HAS BEEN CONSIDERED BUT NO DECISION HAS BEEN REACHED.
- WHAT DO YOU SAY, BUYS?



REVENGE IS THE REASON WHY A KILLER
HAS BEEN HIRED AND THE ORDER GIVEN--
"KILL VIC SAGE!"



THE WEST RIVER SECTION
OF CROWN CITY --

THERE! THAT
MUST BE SAGE!
HE RELL FOR THE
PHONY HOT TIP
WE CALLED IN!



GOT
'EM!

HEY! THIS AIN'T SAGE! WHO...
WHAT IS HE? LOOKS LIKE
HE'S WEARIN' SOME
SORTA MASK!

COULD BE SOMEONE
SAGE SENT N HIS
PLACE! WE'D BETTER
TAKE 'IM TO
ARBO!



YOU FOOLS! THAT'S
"THE QUESTION!"
I'M A WANTED MAN
AND YOU IDIOTS
BRING HIM HERE!
IF HE SHOULD...

CALM DOWN! WE GOT 'IM TIED
UP, AIN'T WE? NOW, LET'S FIND
OUT WHO... HEY! CAN'T GET
THIS MASK OFF 'IM!

THE QUESTION EN?
HE'S WORSE THAN A
LOUSY COP!



THE CARDS IN HIS WALLET, SAY HIS
NAME'S NICK RAGER. HE'S FROM
OUTTA STATE! WELL, MR. RAGER,
YOU MAY NOT BE THE ONE I'M
AFTER, BUT IT LOOKS LIKE WE
GOT JB A MIGHTY NICE CATCH,
ANYWAY!

THAT'S ONE THING IN
MY FAVOR! THE GAS THAT CE-
MENTS THE MASK TO MY FACE
ALSO CHANGES THE PRINTING
ON THOSE CHEMICALLY
TREATED CARDS!



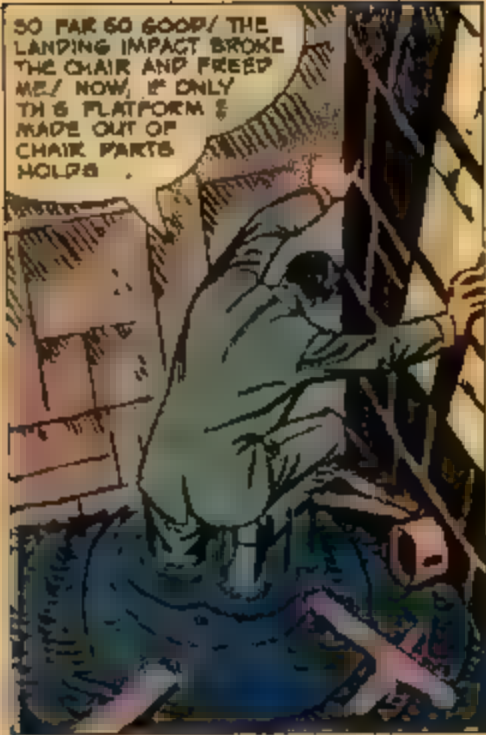
I GOT PAID TO KNOCK OFF PUNKS LIKE
SAGE! BUT I'M GONNA TAKE CARE OF
THIS ONE FOR FREE! OPEN THE TRAP
DOOR, BOYS! THE QUESTION'S
ABOUT TO GET PAID BACK--
FOR ALL THE GUYS HE'S
TURNED IN!

STILL HAVEN'T
GOTTEN A LOOK AT
THIS HIRED
KILLER'S FACE!
TIME'S RUNNING
OUT!...

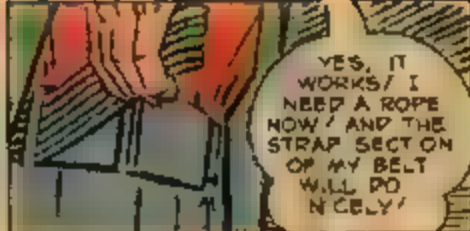


SO MUCH FOR ONE FIST!
NOW, WE'VE GOTTA FIGURE
ANOTHER WAY TO GET AT
THAT TWO-BIT
NEWSCASTER!

I'VE GOT TO
GET OUT OF
THIS AND
FIND OUT
WHO WANTS
VIC SAGE
OUT OF
THE WAY!



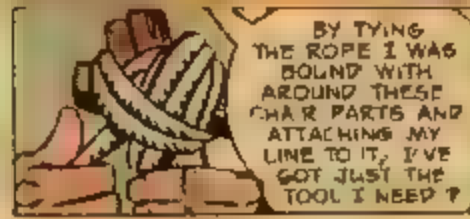
SO FAR SO GOOD! THE LANDING IMPACT BROKE THE CHAIR AND FREED ME! NOW, IF ONLY THE PLATFORM I MADE OUT OF CHAIR PARTS HOLDS.



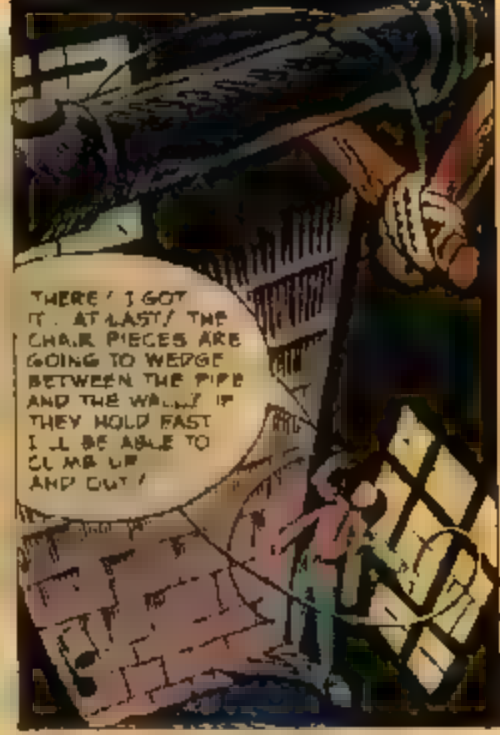
YES, IT WORKS! I NEED A ROPE NOW! AND THE STRAP SECTION OF MY BELT WILL DO NICELY!



IT WAS DESIGNED TO UNRAVEL INTO A ONE-PIECE LINE!



BY TYING THE ROPE I WAS BOUND WITH AROUND THESE CHAIR PARTS AND ATTACHING MY LINE TO IT, I'VE GOT JUST THE TOOL I NEED?



THERE! I GOT IT! AT LAST! THE CHAIR PIECES ARE GOING TO WEDGE BETWEEN THE PIPE AND THE WALL! IF THEY HOLD FAST I'LL BE ABLE TO CLIMB UP AND OUT!

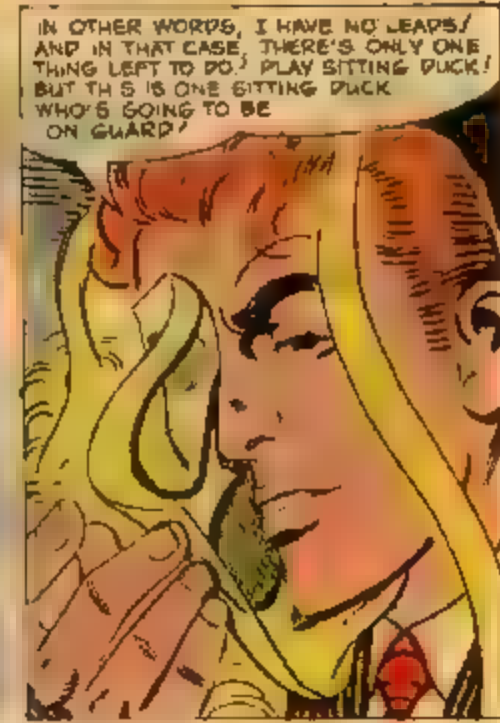


NO VOICES... NOR SOUNDS! IT'S SAFE TO COME OUT!

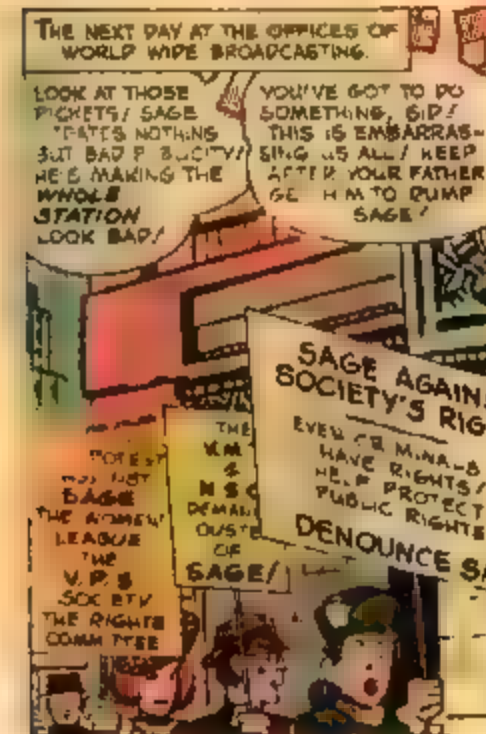
THEY'RE GONE BUT UNKNOWINGLY THEY DID GIVE VIC SAGE THAT HOT TIP! NOW, AT LEAST, I KNOW SOMEONE'S OUT TO FINISH ME OFF!



I KNOW THAT BUT THAT'S ALL I KNOW! I HAVE NO IDEA WHO'S BEHIND THIS, WHO THAT HIRED KILLER IS OR EVEN THE NAMES OF THOSE MUDCRAWNERS!



IN OTHER WORDS, I HAVE NO LEADS! AND IN THAT CASE, THERE'S ONLY ONE THING LEFT TO DO: PLAY SITTING DUCK! BUT THIS IS ONE SITTING DUCK WHO'S GOING TO BE ON GUARD!



THE NEXT DAY AT THE OFFICES OF WORLD WIDE BROADCASTING.

LOOK AT THOSE PICKETS! SAGE'S FATES NOTHING BUT BAD P BUCITY! HE'S MAKING THE WHOLE STATION LOOK BAD!

YOU'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING, SID! THIS IS EMBARRASSING US ALL! KEEP AFTER YOUR FATHER! GET HIM TO PUMP SAGE!

SAGE AGAINST SOCIETY'S RIGHTS! EVEN IF MINORS HAVE RIGHTS! HELP PROTECT PUBLIC RIGHTS! DENOUNCE SAGE!



WHY DOES WE HAVE TO STIR UP SO MUCH TROUBLE? WITH THIS MANY PEOPLE AGAINST HIM, HE MUST BE WRONG!

SORRY, BOYS! MY FATHER SAYS THAT IT'S VIC'S SHOW AND HE CAN RUN IT AS HE LIKES! WE'LL JUST HAVE TO FORCE VIC TO BACKDOWN HIMSELF - FOR THE GOOD OF US ALL! ANYTHING GOES!

WE'VE BEEN UNSUCCESSFUL IN TRYING TO GET THE SPONSOR TO DROP SAGE. WHAT ELSE CAN WE DO?



I REPEAT: RIGHTS CAN ONLY BELONG TO INDIVIDUALS! GROUPS, BY THEMSELVES, HAVE NO RIGHTS! THE RIGHTS BELONG TO THE INDIVIDUAL WITHIN THE GROUP! AND NO MAN, NOR GROUP, HAS THE RIGHT TO FORCEABLY VIOLATE ANOTHER MAN'S RIGHTS! HE MAY DO SO - JUST AS HE MAY KILL - BUT BY NO STRETCH OF THE IMAGINATION WAS HE THE RIGHT TO DO SO!

SVD **WHATEVER** YOU DECIDE TO DO TO HIM WE'RE BEHIND YOU ONE HUNDRED PERCENT!

I'LL GIVE HIM ONE LAST CHANCE TO PUBLICLY APOLOGIZE AND THEN STAY IN LINE! IF HE REFUSES THIS TIME, I'LL--

HERE HE COMES! HIS BROADCAST IS OVER!

SAGE, I WANT TO TALK TO YOU, AND THIS TIME YOU'RE GOING TO LISTEN!

MR SAGE, I WAS TOLD TO GIVE YOU THIS PACKAGE ONCE YOU GOT OFF THE AIR!

FROM NOW ON YOUR BROADCASTS ARE GOING TO AVOID CONTROVERSY! WE CAN'T AFFORD TO...

LET ME! DON'T LIKE THE SOUND OF THIS NUMBER FIGURED THE KILLER WOULD GO THIS FAR!

HEY! COME BACK HERE! I HAVEN'T FINISHED WITH YOU YET!

GOOD THING THIS IS THE BLIND SIDE OF THE BUILDING

WHA WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO HAVE YOU GONE MAD??

SVD THAT WAS A BOMB!

SAGE, WHAT ARE YOU GETTING US MIXED UP IN?

YOU FAILED AGAIN SVD AND I WON'T STAND FOR ANOTHER SUCH FAILURE! THE NEXT TIME YOU'RE GOING TO TAKE CARE OF HIM WHERE I CAN WATCH HIM DIE!

THIS IS THE LAST STRAW, SAGE! YOU COULD HAVE GOTTEN US ALL KILLED! EITHER STOP MAKING TROUBLE, OR WE'LL FIND SOME WAY TO GET YOU OFF THE AIR!

THAT WAS CLOSE GOTTA GET TO THE MAN BEHIND THIS BEFORE HE DOES SOMETHING ELSE LIKE THIS

VIC, I HIRED YOU BECAUSE I LIKE YOUR WAY OF THINKING! YOU SEE THINGS IN BLACK AND WHITE! YOUR'RE NOT AFRAID TO CHALLENGE THE PUBLIC'S VIEWS AND STIMULATE US ALL TO RETHINK OUR ISSUES! WHEN I SIGNED YOU, I THOUGHT I WAS PREPARED FOR ALL SORTS OF OPPOSITION-- PROTESTS THREATS... BUT NOT VIOLENCE! I CAN'T EXPECT ANYONE TO FACE VIOLENCE FOR ME

NO ONE CAN FORCE ME TO FACE VIOLENCE! BUT NEITHER CAN THEY STOP ME FROM FACING IT! THAT IS MY DECISION! WHAT'S UP TO YOU IS WHETHER OR NOT I'M ALLOWED TO CONTINUE BROADCASTING!

I CAN'T VERY WELL TURN YOU DOWN, VIC! I KNOW YOU'RE STANDING UP TO THIS VIOLENCE FOR THE SAME REASON YOU'VE OPPOSED MURDER AND PREJUDICE-- BECAUSE IT'S WRONG! I HAVEN'T STOPPED YOU BEFORE, SO I'M NOT ABOUT TO STOP YOU NOW! BUT BE CAREFUL!

JUST CHECKED WITH THE POLICE! STILL NO LEADS ON THE BLAST! NOW WHAT?

EVERYONE TAKE OFF EARLY AND GET A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP! IN THE MORNING WE'RE GOING TO START DIGGING AND WE'RE NOT GOING TO STOP TILL WE GET THE ANIMAL WHO WAS BEHIND THAT ATTACK.

HAVE TO START SOMEWHERE / I'LL GO THROUGH MY FILES AND MAKE OUT A LIST OF THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE A GRUDGE AGAINST ME / THE STAFF CAN CHECK THEM OUT TOMORROW!

I GUESS RIGHT NOW I CAN ELIMINATE THOSE WHO HAVE NO UNDERWORLD CONNECTIONS.

AS THE QUESTION, I TOLD THE POLICE ABOUT THE HIRED KILLER BEING AFTER VIC SAGE / BUT IT LOOKS LIKE THEY DIDN'T TAKE ME SERIOUSLY!

THEY PROBABLY THINK THE BOMB WAS THROWN BY SOME CRANK - LIKE ONE OF THE PEOPLE WHO WERE PICKETING THE STATION / HMMM, THE PHONE!

SAGE / LISTEN -- AND DO EXACTLY AS I SAY - OR ELSE YOU'LL NEVER SEE YOUR PRETTY LITTLE SECRETARY AGAIN, UNDERSTAND IT HERE, I'LL LET YOU SPEAK TO HER!

OKAY CUTIE TELL YOUR BOSS TO PLAY BALL / HEY, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

TURN BACK HERE / YOU'RE GONNA TALK TO HIM / YOU HEAR ME? I SAID TALK / NOW!

OKAY / HAVE IT YOUR WAY / I'LL JUST HAVE TO LOOSEN YOUR MOUTH FOR YOU!

C'MON / SAY SOMETHING / -- OR I'LL KEEP THIS UP TILL YOU START SCREAMING!

THIS IS NO JOKE / I RECOGNIZE THAT VOICE / IT'S THE HIRED KILLER, ALL RIGHT!

OKAY, SCUM / KNOCK IT OFF / I BELIEVE YOU'VE GOT HER / NOW, WHAT DO YOU WANT?

YOUR CLOSED-MOUTH ROUTINE DIDN'T WORK, CUTIE!

OKAY, SAGE, I'M GONNA GIVE YOU THIS ADDRESS / YOU'RE TO COME HERE ALONE / AND NO TRICKS / I'LL HAVE PEOPLE WATCHING!

NO, VIC, DON'T COME PLEASE DON'T COME!

GOOD WORK, ARBO / AT LAST I'LL HAVE MY REVENGE!

SO YOU'RE THE ONE BEHIND THIS / BUT WHO ARE YOU? WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?

WHY? BECAUSE VIC SAGE **DESERVES** TO DIE / MY NAME IS NAT KAT / YEARS AGO, I WORKED IN THE CITY'S PURCHASING OFFICE / SAGE WAS ONLY A NEWS-PAPER REPORTER BACK THEN / HE CAUGHT ME JUGGLING PURCHASING ORDERS AND TAKING KICK BACKS / HE EXPOSED ME, AND I WAS SENT TO PRISON / BUT I SWORE THAT SOMEDAY I'D GET EVEN!

WELL, WELL / YOU SURE ARE A POOR, MISTREATED SOUL, AREN'T YOU?

AND YOU'RE A REAL MAN OF VIRTUE, TOO, AREN'T YOU, MR. KAT? THAT'S WHY YOU HIRED THOSE KILLERS TO PAY VIC BACK FOR SOMETHING HE HAD EVERY RIGHT TO DO!

SHUT-UP! IT'S HIS OWN FAULT! HE DESERVES EVERYTHING HE GETS!



HE DIDN'T HAVE TO PRY INTO MY AFFAIRS! I EVEN OFFERED HIM A CUT! NO ONE FORCED HIM TO TURN ME IN!

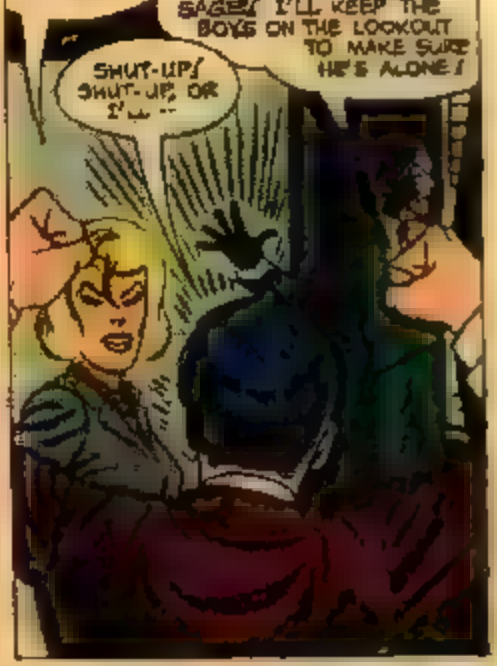
YEAH, SURE! AND WHO FORCED YOU TO STEAL IN THE FIRST PLACE, AND WHO FORCED YOU TO HIRE THESE KILLERS?



YOU CERTAINLY ARE SICK, MR. KAT!

RELAX, KAT! WE'LL GET HER! NOW WE'D WAIT HERE COMES SAGE! I'LL KEEP THE BOYS ON THE LOOKOUT TO MAKE SURE HE'S ALONE!

SHUT-UP! SHUT-UP, OR I'LL --



NORA-- ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? I SEE THEY TIED YOU UP! WHAT'S THE MATTER, WERE THEY AFRAID YOU'D BE TOO TOUGH TO HANDLE?

SAGE, I'VE WAITED A LONG TIME FOR THIS! REMEMBER ME? I SWORE I'D GET EVEN WITH YOU! REMEMBER, SAGE? I NEVER FORGOT!

YOUR SONG IS FAMILIAR! BUT THEN I'VE HEARD SO MANY WHINE IT!

OH VIC! YOU SHOULDN'T COME!



I'M NAT KAT! YOU YOU STILL DON'T REMEMBER ME? DO I HAVE TO BEAT IT BACK INTO YOUR MEMORY?

YOU WEREN'T IMPORTANT ENOUGH FOR ME TO REMEMBER!



ARBO, KEEP YOUR GUN ON THE GIRL! IF SAGE EVEN TRIES TO STRIKE BACK -- SHOOT HER!

THIS IS IT! ANY MOVE I MAKE HAS TO BE RIGHT - THE FIRST TIME!

I CAN'T LET THEM DO THIS TO VIC!



NOW, SAGE, I'M GOING TO REFRESH YOUR MEM... WHA--?

GOOD GIRL! ARBO DIDN'T EXPECT NORA TO ACT! HIS EYES WERE ON ME!



STAY BACK! DON'T HIT ME! KEEP AWAY FR-- UNH!

I'D SURE LIKE TO TAKE ON THESE TWO! BUT NORA'S SAFETY COMES FIRST! SO IT LOOKS LIKE I'LL HAVE TO BRING THE SMOKE BOMB INTO PLAY!



CONTINUED AFTER THE NEXT PAGE.

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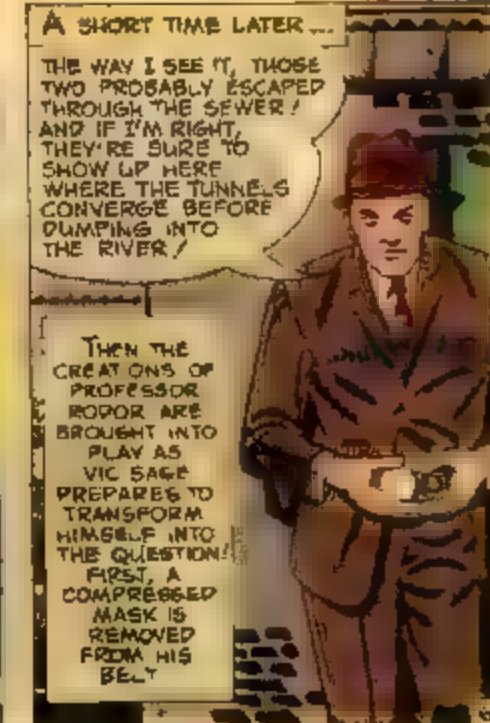
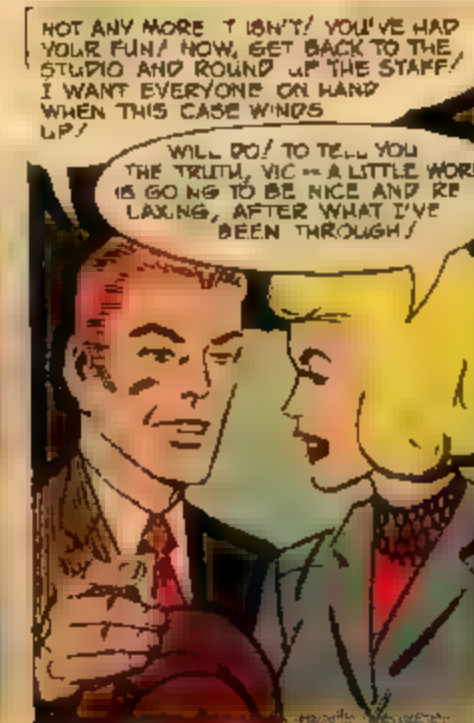
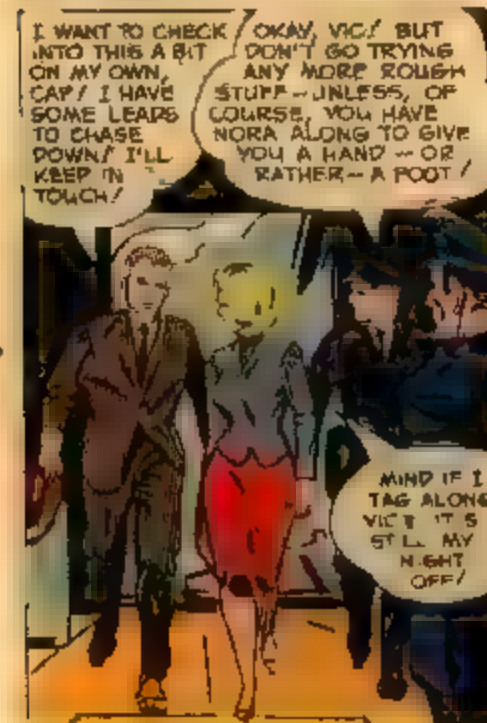
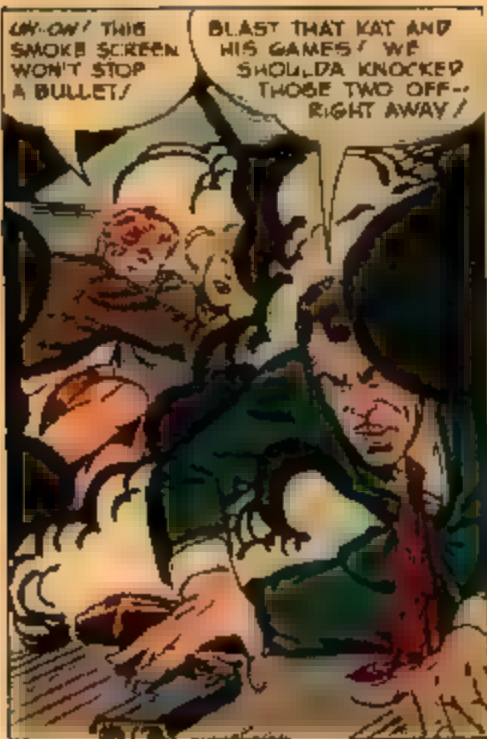
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THEN, THE GAS IS RELEASED / A MULTITUDE OF CHEMICAL REACTIONS BEGIN



AND ALMOST INSTANTLY, THE TRANSFORMATION IS COMPLETE / WHERE ONCE STOOD VIC SAGE, NOW STANDS THE QUESTION



NOW, TO MAKE SURE THOSE TWO HAVE HAD THEIR LAST CRACK AT ME ... IN ANY IDENTITY /

THESE TUNNELS DISTORT EVERY SOUND / TOO MANY ECHOES / EVEN THE SOUND OF RUNNING WATER SEEMS TO BE COMING FROM EVERY DIRECTION /



WAIT / WHAT'S THAT? RATS? NO / THOSE ARE VOICES / AND FOOTSTEPS / BUT WHICH DIRECTION ARE THEY COMING FROM?



I SHOULD NEVER HAVE LISTENED TO YOU, KAT / YOU FOULED UP EVERYTHING /

SHUT UP! IT WAS YOUR FAULT / YOU LET THAT GIRL MAKE A CHUMP OUTTA YOU /



THAT WAY, BUT ... HOW CLOSE??

WHA-? WHO-?

THE QUESTION!! BUT YOU'RE DEAD!!

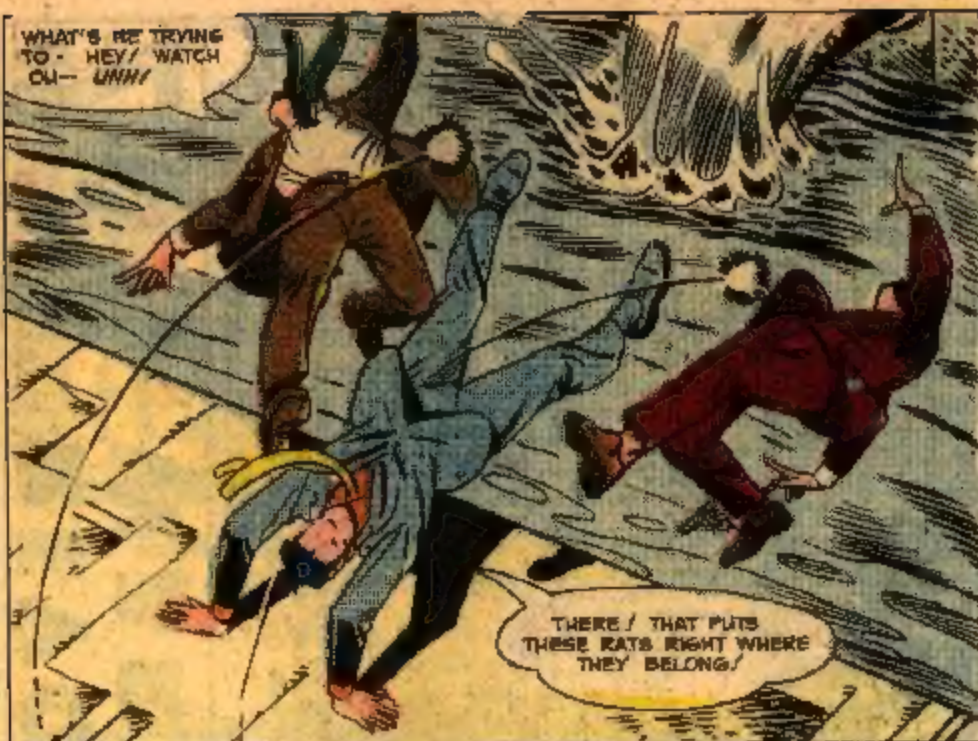
I'LL LET THEM COME TO ME... NO / TOO LATE / I'M NOT CLOSE ENOUGH / AND THEY'RE GOING FOR THEIR GUNS / ONLY ONE THING LEFT TO DO



G'MON, KAT / WHAT ARE YOU WAITIN' FOR / SHOOT / SHOOT 'EM!

GOT TO COVER GROUND FAST / GET THEM BOTH AT ONCE!





WHAT'S HE TRYING TO - HEY! WATCH OUT - UHH!

THERE! THAT PUTS THESE RATS RIGHT WHERE THEY BELONG!



HELP! DO SOMETHING! WE'RE CAUGHT IN THE CURRENT! CAN'T HOLD ON MUCH LONGER!



SO WHY TELL ME YOUR PROBLEMS?

YOU CAN SWING OVER ON THE PIPES AND PULL US OUT! BUT HURRY!

C'MON! YOU HAVE TO SAVE US! YOU MUST!



YOU'RE BOTH CRAZY IF YOU THINK I'D RISK MY NECK TO SAVE THE LIKES OF YOU! AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED, YOU'RE JUST SO MUCH SEWAGE! AND YOU DESERVE TO BE RIGHT WHERE YOU ARE!



YOU'RE INHUMAN! YOU CAN'T LEAVE US HERE! YOU'VE NO RIGHT! IT'S YOUR FAULT WE'RE HERE! YOU MUST SAVE US! IT'S YOUR DUTY! IT'S

DUTY?? TO WHOM??



I SURE DON'T WISH THOSE TWO ANY LUCK! BUT THEY JUST MIGHT SURVIVE THEIR TRIP TO THE RIVER! I'D BETTER CALL CAPTAIN LASH SO HE CAN PICK 'EM UP BITTER WAY!



THE END

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